

Archie  
ADVENTURE  
SERIES

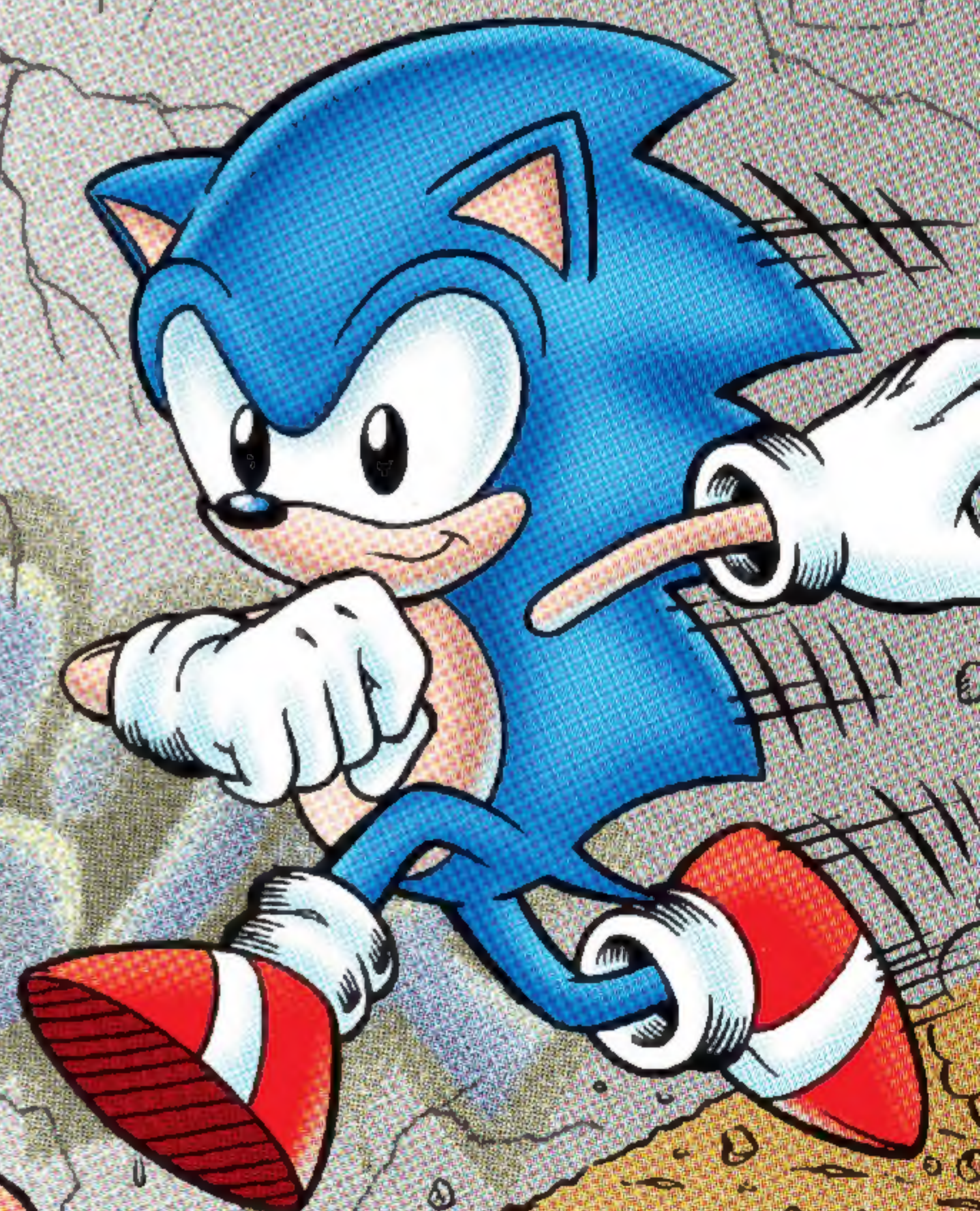


# SONIC & KNUCKLES™

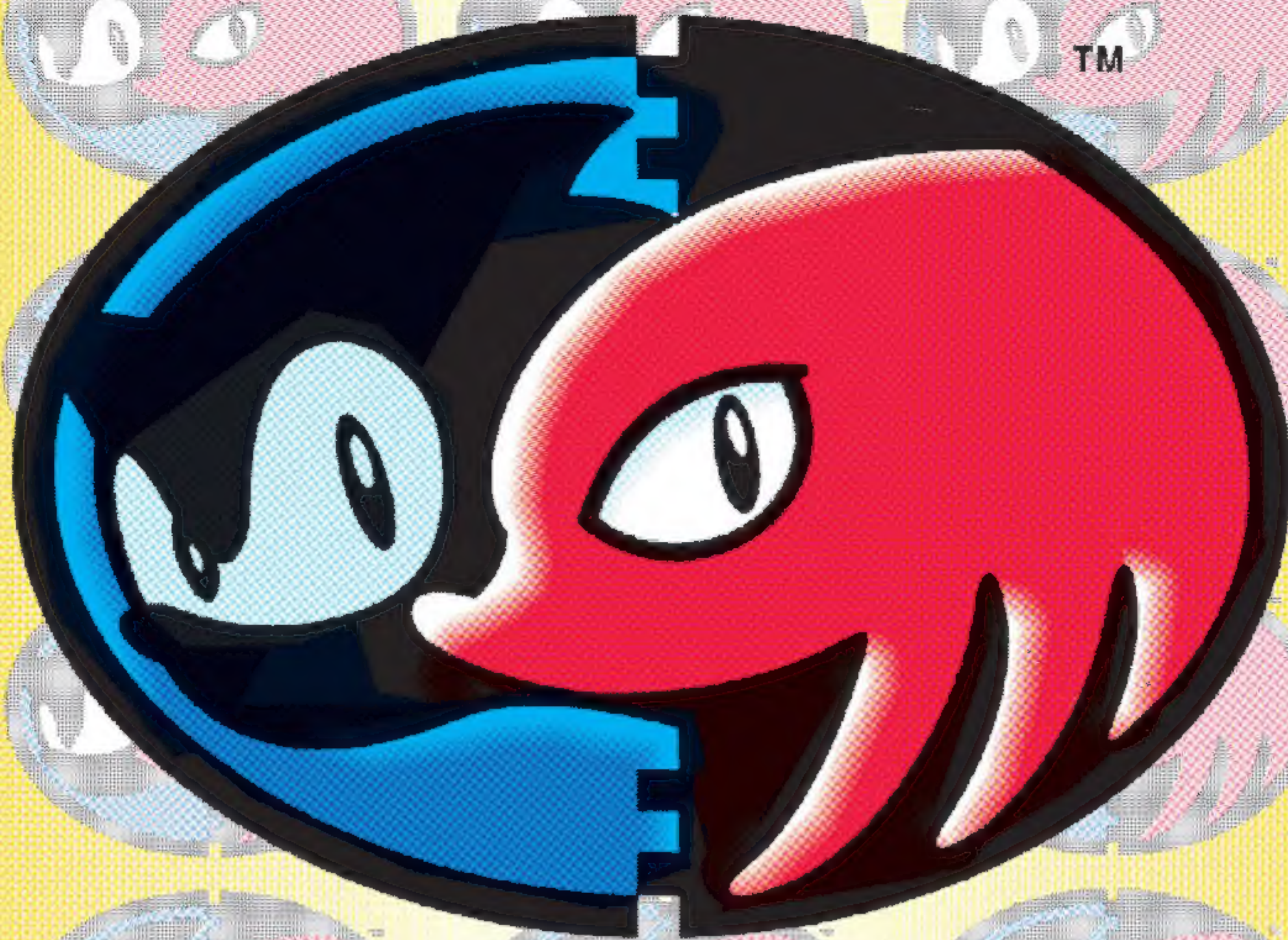
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COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



SPINBALL







# SONIC & KNUCKLES

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### **"PANIC IN THE SKY!"**

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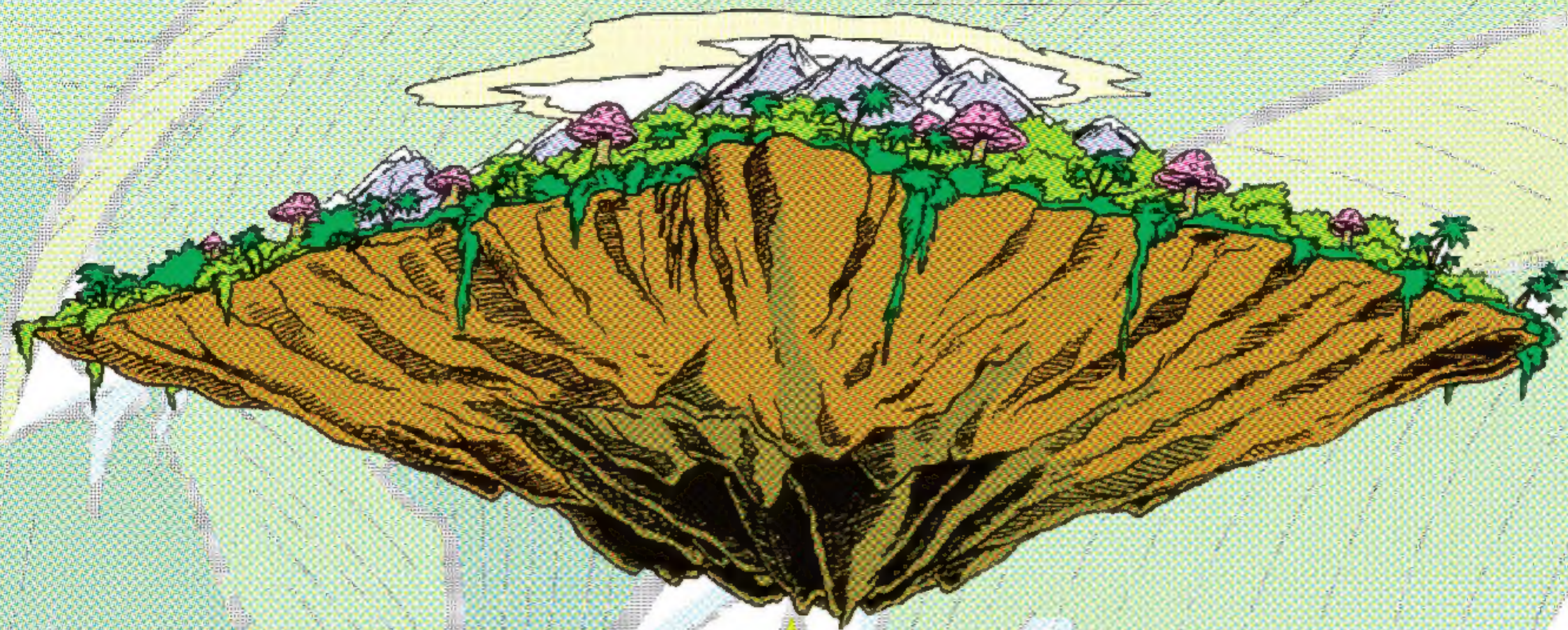
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*Editor In Chief:*

**Richard Goldwater**

**SPECIAL THANKS to Jennifer Hunn at Sega**





**A** land once renowned for its great beauty, the planet **Mobius** is well on its way to becoming a scarred, lifeless battlefield, thanks to the relentless acts of scientific terrorism unleashed by the evil Techno-Tyrant, **Dr. Ivo Robotnik**.

In this once-serene plane, only one great natural wonder remains untouched by this utter devastation: the mysterious **Floating Island**. A mighty continent, the island is held aloft by the energy of a rare and powerful gem known as a **Chaos Emerald**.

A world unto itself with its origins lost to antiquity, this sprawling multi-zoned land mass drifts lazily above the face of Mobius, existing in harmony, yet forever apart.

As enigmatic as the Floating Island is its guardian, **Knuckles The Echidna**. Last of an ancient, noble race, his charge is to preserve the peace, and protect the island's boundaries from the encroachment and harsh realities of the "outside world" -- a task handed down generation unto generation.

Recently host to a great battle between Dr. Robotnik and the spearhead of **Knothole Village's** resistance, **Sonic The Hedgehog**, the Floating Island again stands alone as a safe haven from the war that rages unchecked, below.

But for how long?



PROLOGUE:

THE WESTERN COAST OF  
THE GREAT CONTINENT.

12:17 PM

THOUGH PRONE TO EARTH-  
QUAKES, MUDSLIDES, FIRES  
AND FLOODS...

... IT REMAINS ONE OF THE FEW  
REGIONS ON MOBIUS TO REMAIN  
UNSCARRED BY CONFLICT!

HERE, THE NATIVES CAN FROLIC  
AND ROMP WITHOUT CARE!

OR AT LEAST  
THEY COULD...

WHAP!



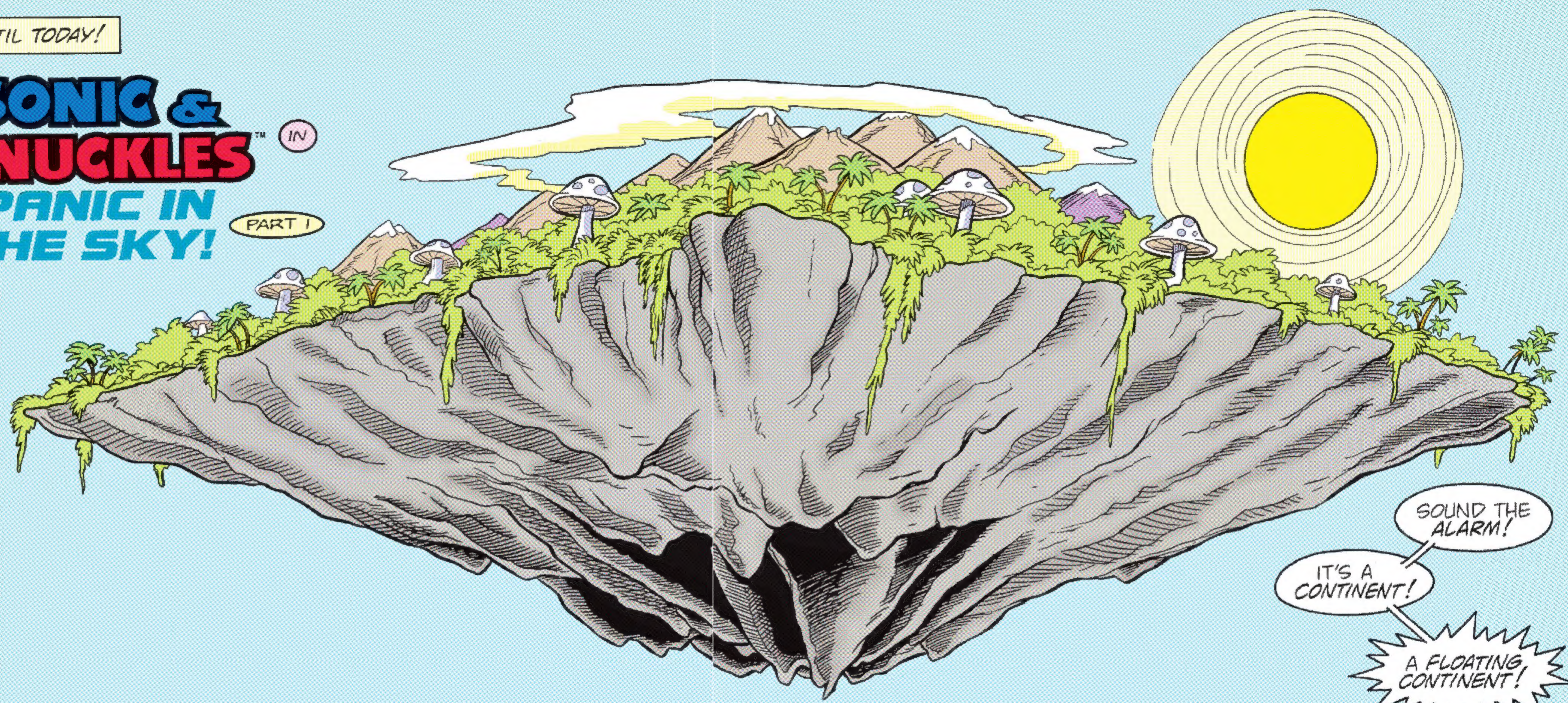
...UNTIL TODAY!

# SONIC & KNUCKLES™

IN

## PANIC IN THE SKY!

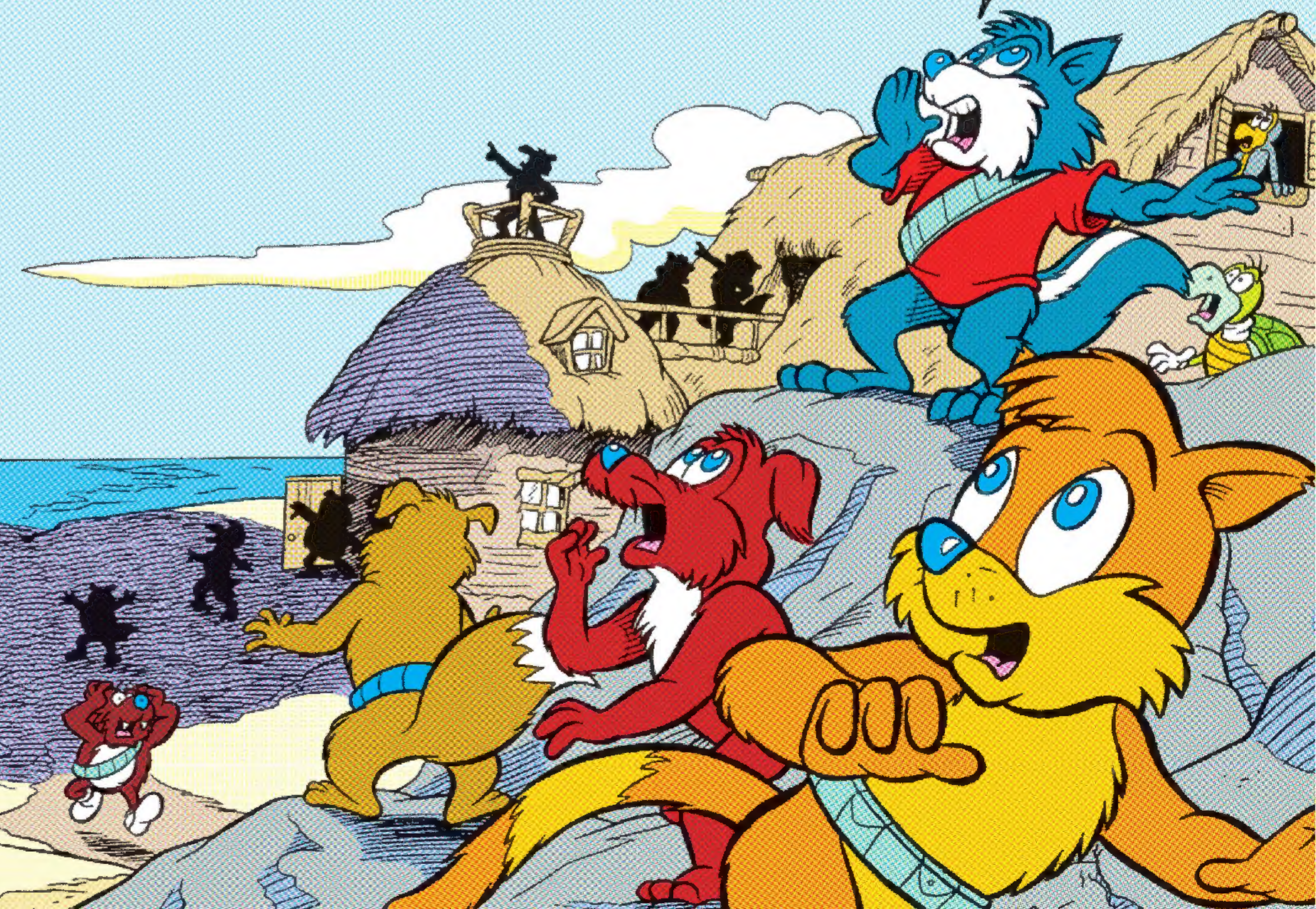
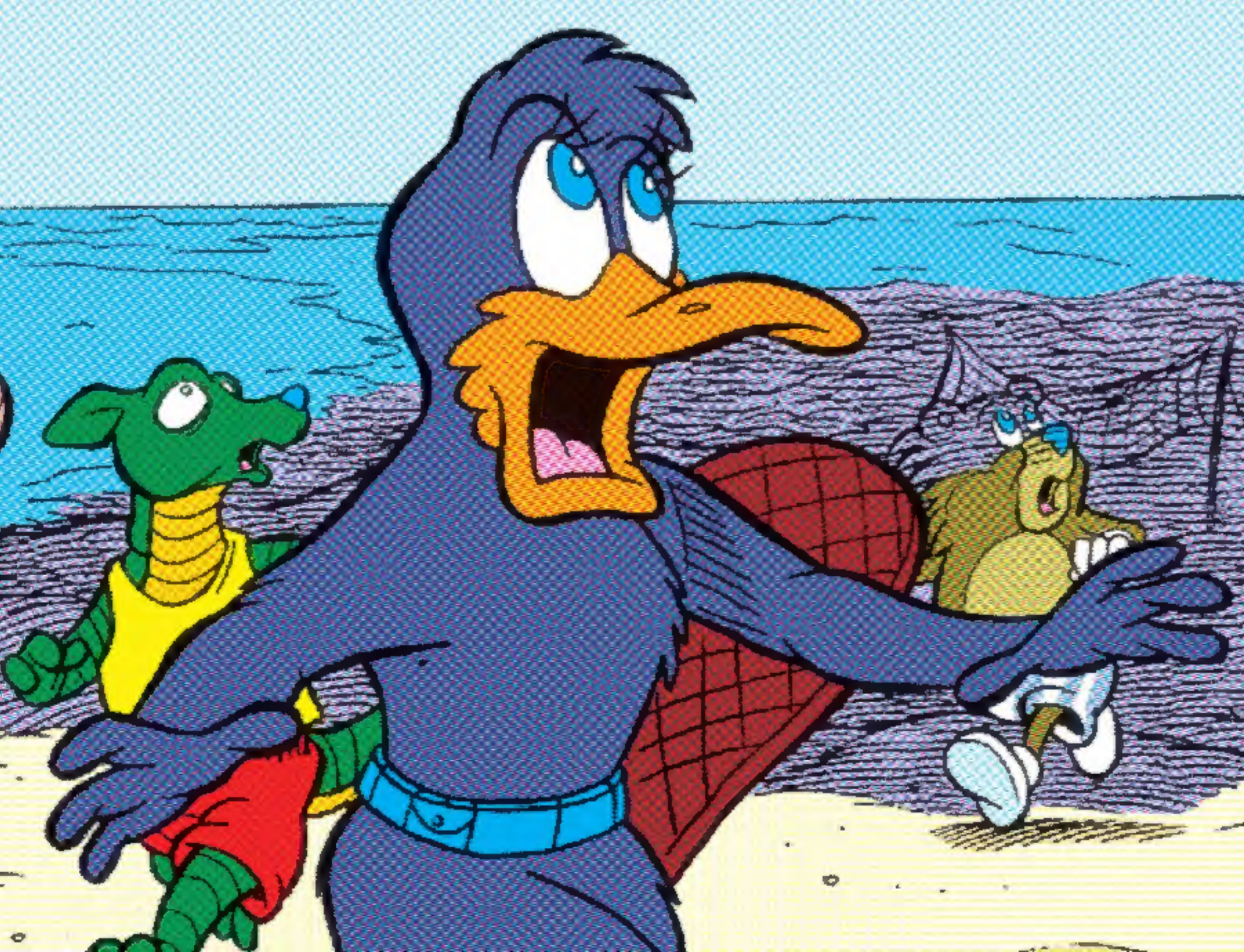
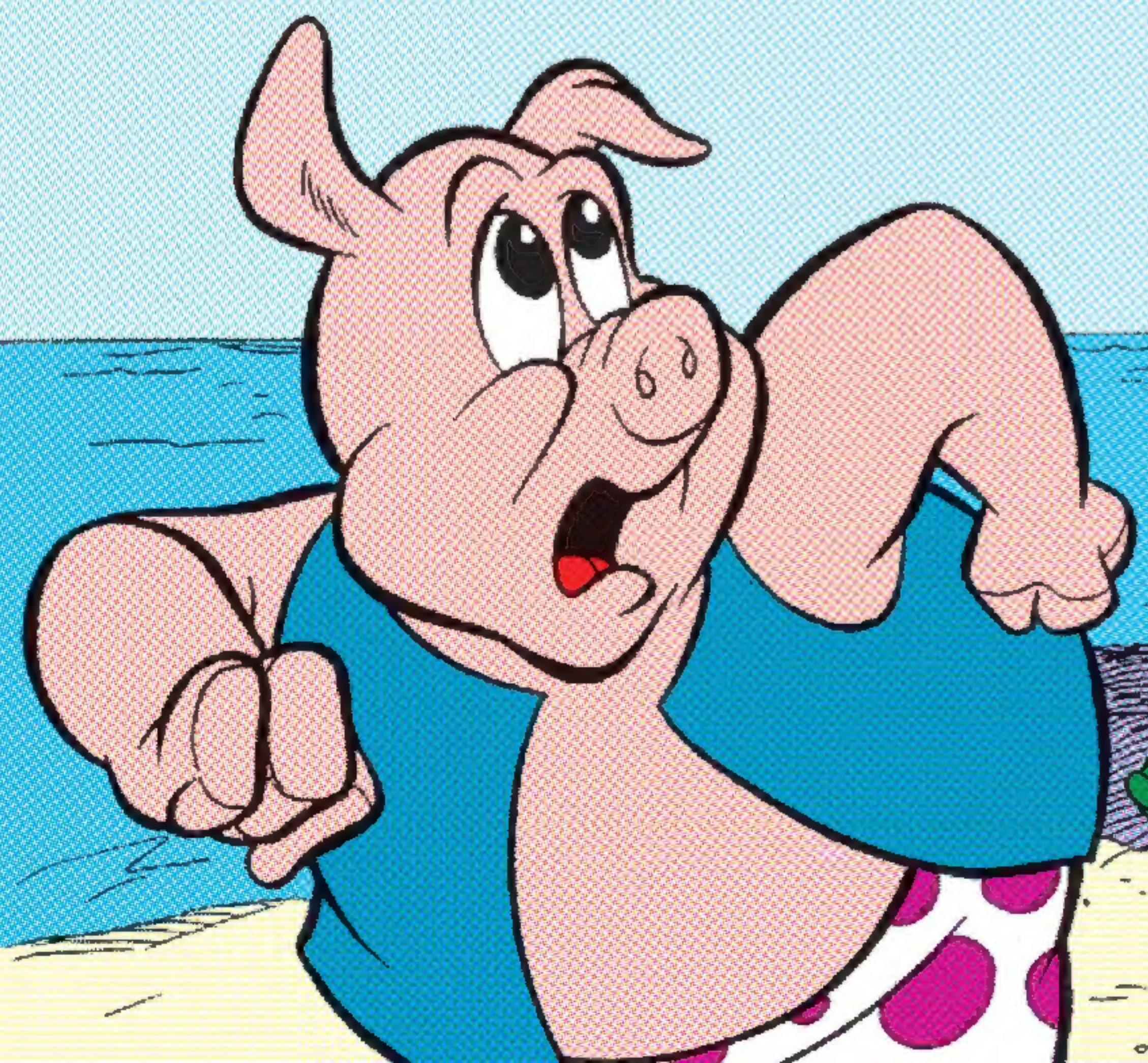
PART I



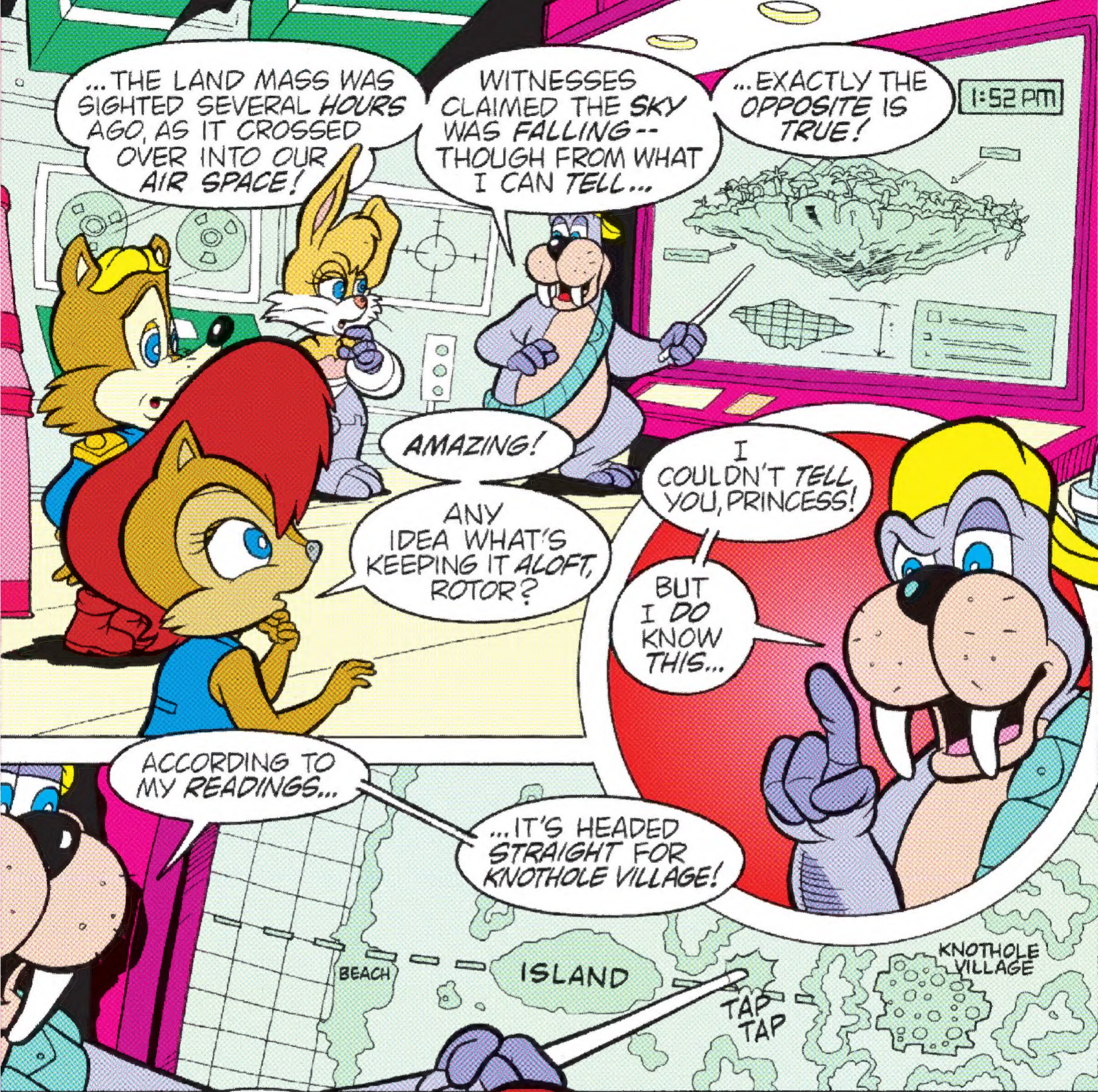
SOUND THE ALARM!

IT'S A CONTINENT!

A FLOATING CONTINENT!







...THE LAND MASS WAS SIGHTED SEVERAL HOURS AGO, AS IT CROSSED OVER INTO OUR AIR SPACE!

WITNESSES CLAIMED THE SKY WAS FALLING-- THOUGH FROM WHAT I CAN TELL...

...EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE!

1:52 PM

AMAZING!

ANY IDEA WHAT'S KEEPING IT ALOFT, ROTOR?

I COULDN'T TELL YOU, PRINCESS!

BUT I DO KNOW THIS...

ACCORDING TO MY READINGS...

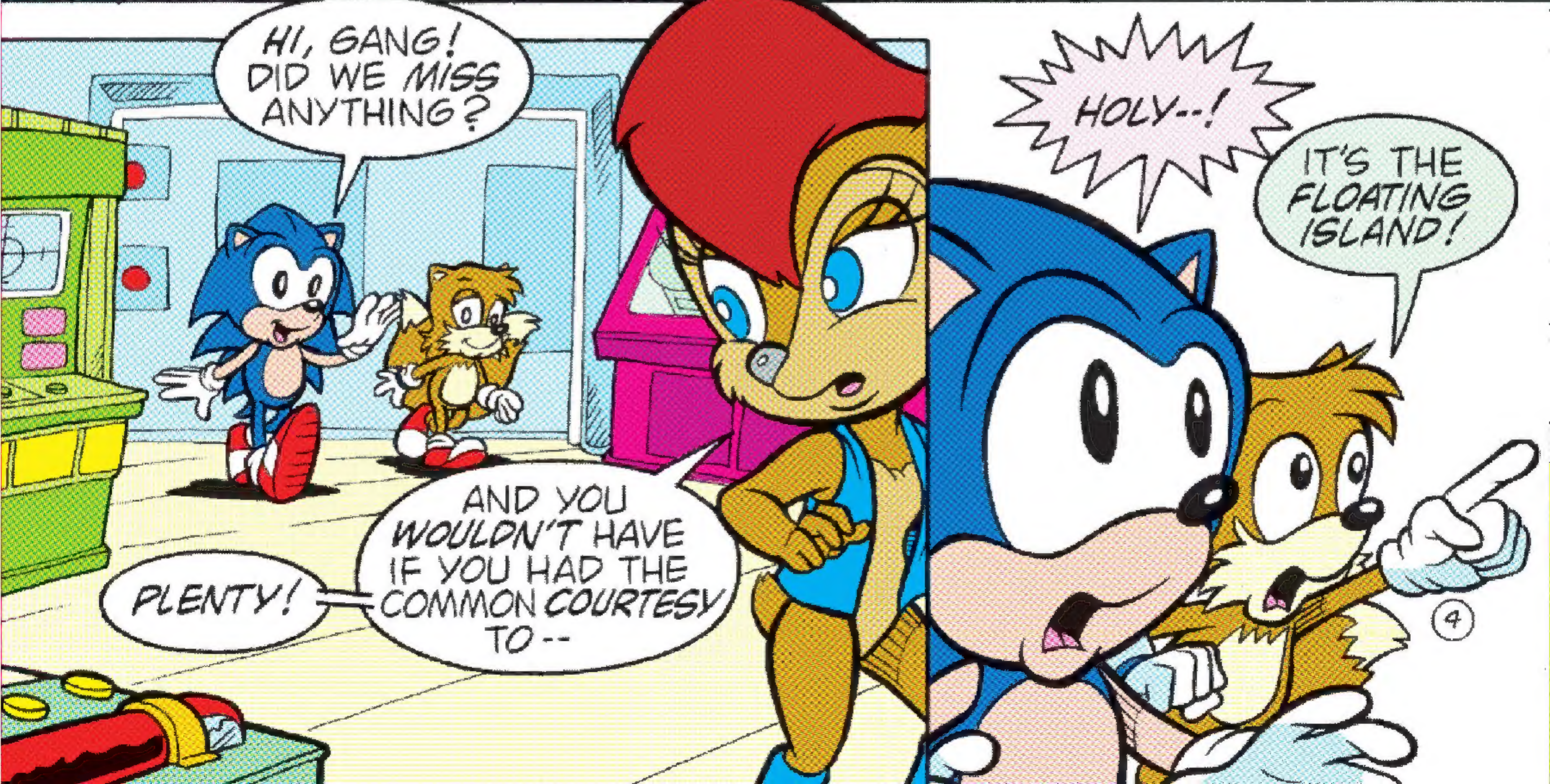
...IT'S HEADED STRAIGHT FOR KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!

BEACH

ISLAND

TAP TAP

KNOTHOLE VILLAGE



HI, GANG! DID WE MISS ANYTHING?

HOLY--!

IT'S THE FLOATING ISLAND!

AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE IF YOU HAD THE COMMON COURTESY TO--

PLENTY!

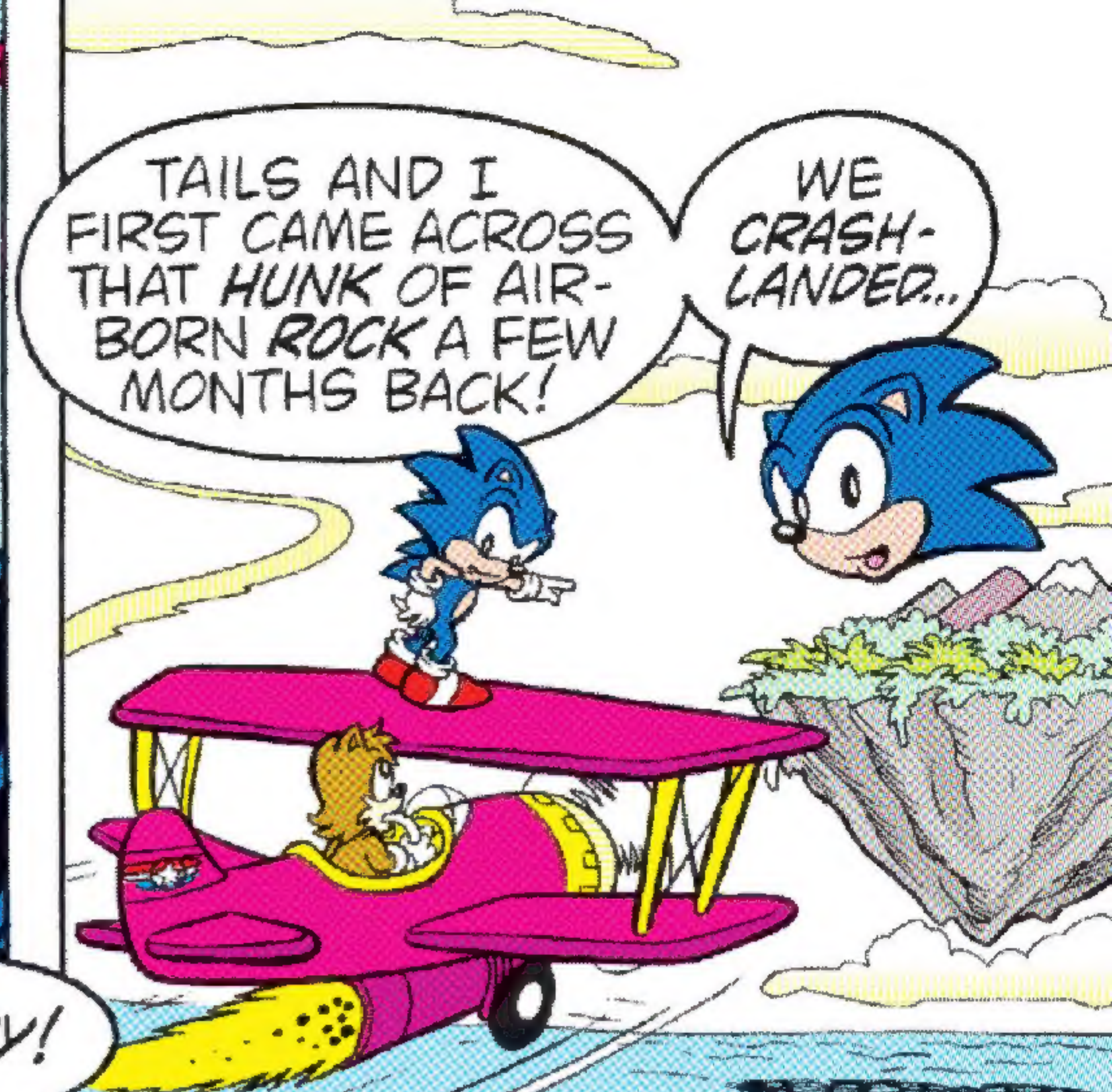




"FLOATING ISLAND"?  
MIND FILLING US IN, GENIUS?

WHAT DO YOU TWO KNOW THAT THE REST OF US DON'T?

PLENTY!



TAILS AND I FIRST CAME ACROSS THAT HUNK OF AIR-BORN ROCK A FEW MONTHS BACK!

WE CRASH-LANDED..



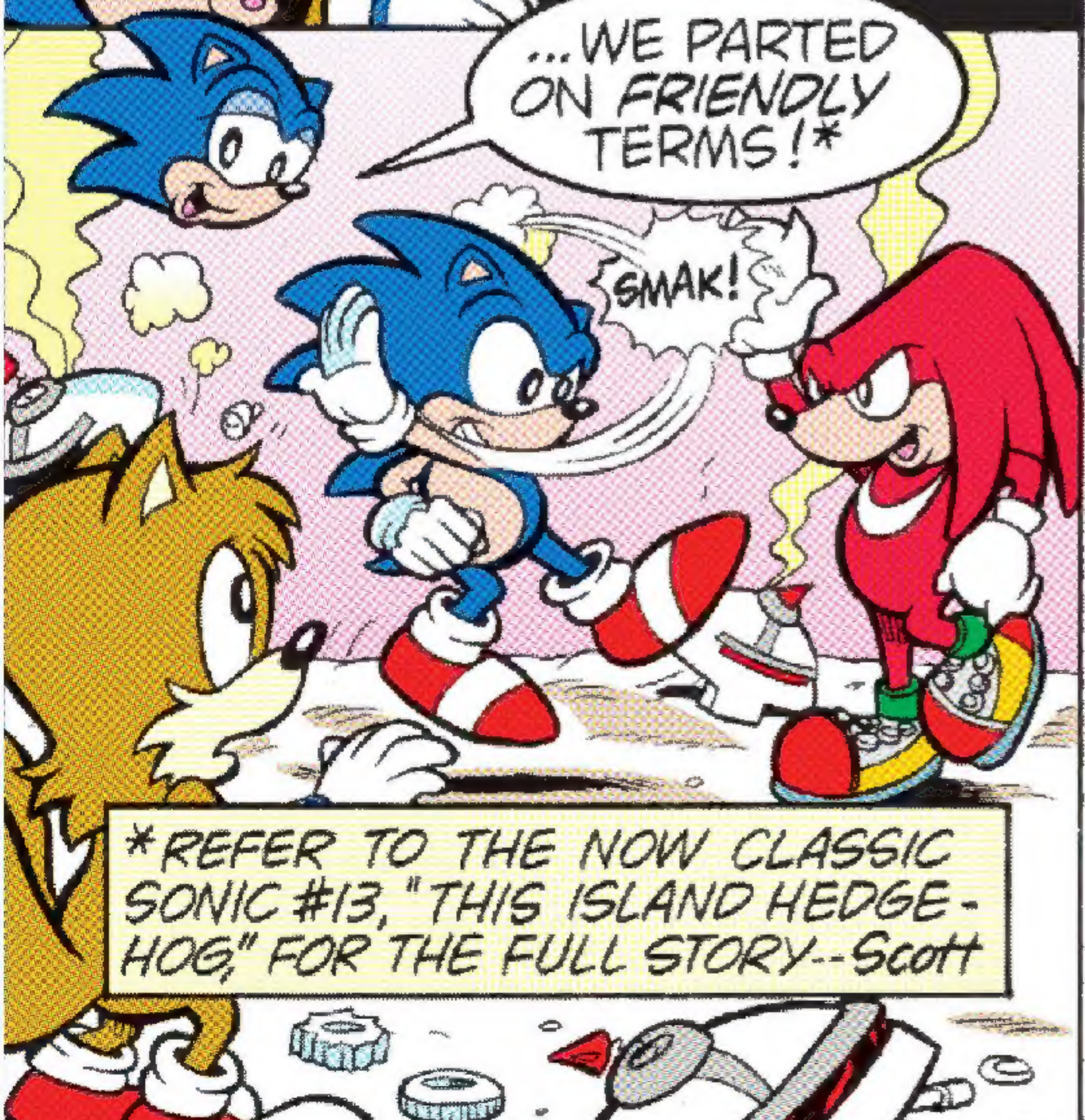
...AND RAN AFOWL OF KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA--GUARDIAN OF THE LOCAL CHAOS EMERALD!

THAT'S WHAT KEEPS THE ISLAND AFLOAT!



TO PUT IT MILDLY, HE TOOK AN IMMEDIATE AND PROFOUND DISLIKE TO US!

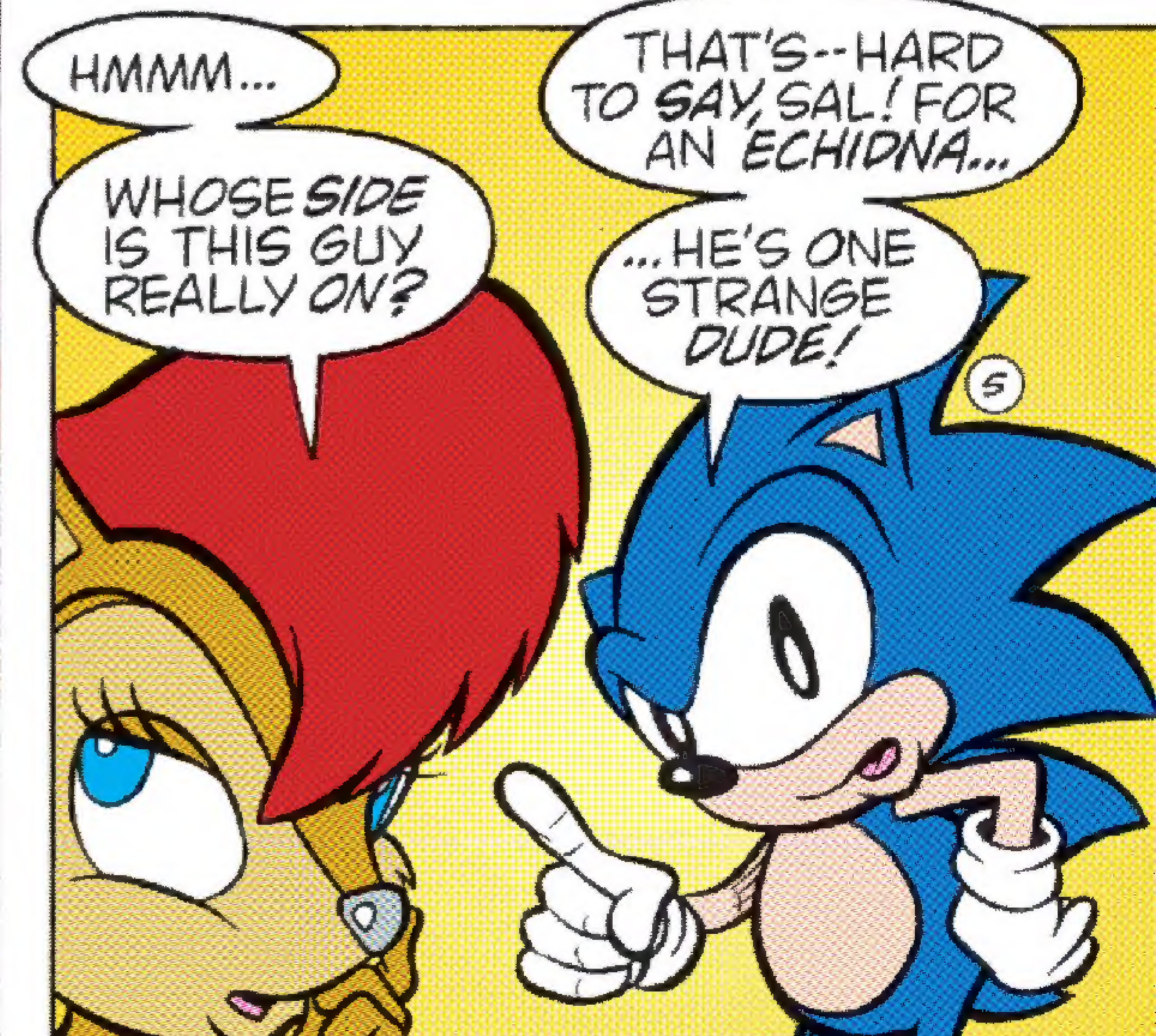
BUT-- AFTER WE'D HASHED THINGS OUT A BIT...



...WE PARTED ON FRIENDLY TERMS!\*

SNAK!

\*REFER TO THE NOW CLASSIC SONIC #13, "THIS ISLAND HEDGE-HOG," FOR THE FULL STORY--SCOTT



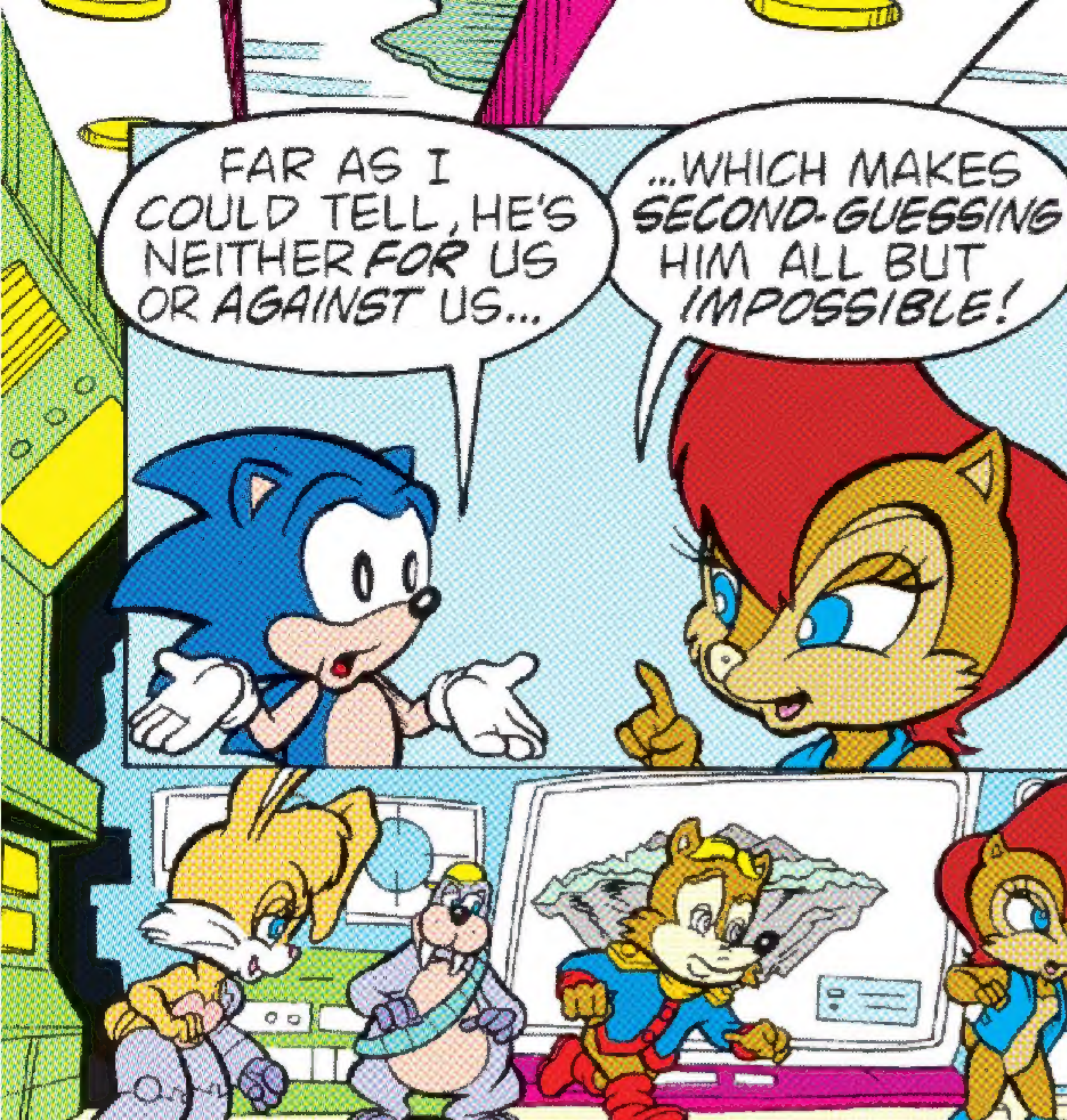
HMMM...

WHOSE SIDE IS THIS GUY REALLY ON?

THAT'S--HARD TO SAY, SAL! FOR AN ECHIDNA...

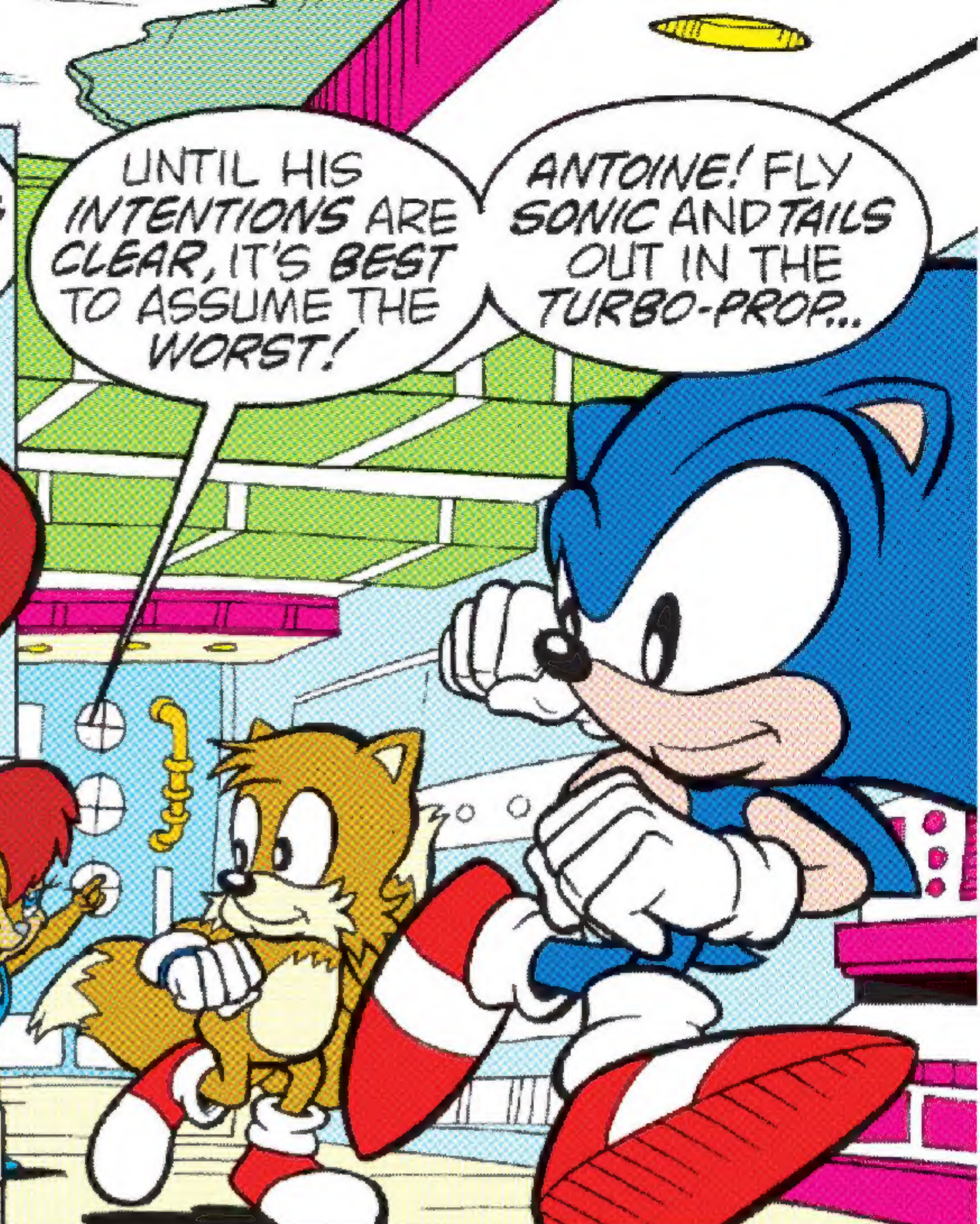
...HE'S ONE STRANGE DUDE!





FAR AS I COULD TELL, HE'S NEITHER FOR US OR AGAINST US...

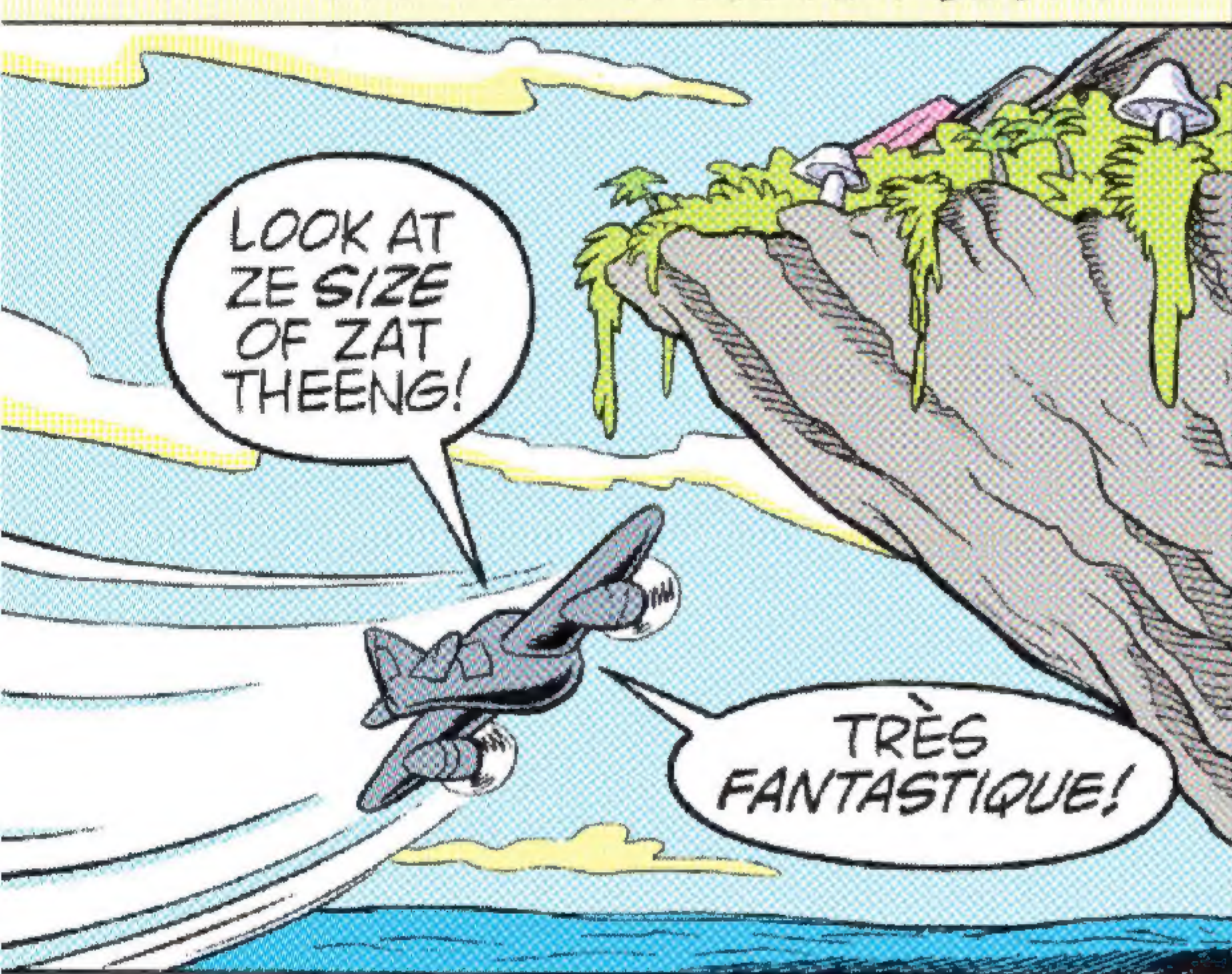
...WHICH MAKES SECOND-GUESSING HIM ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE!



UNTIL HIS INTENTIONS ARE CLEAR, IT'S BEST TO ASSUME THE WORST!

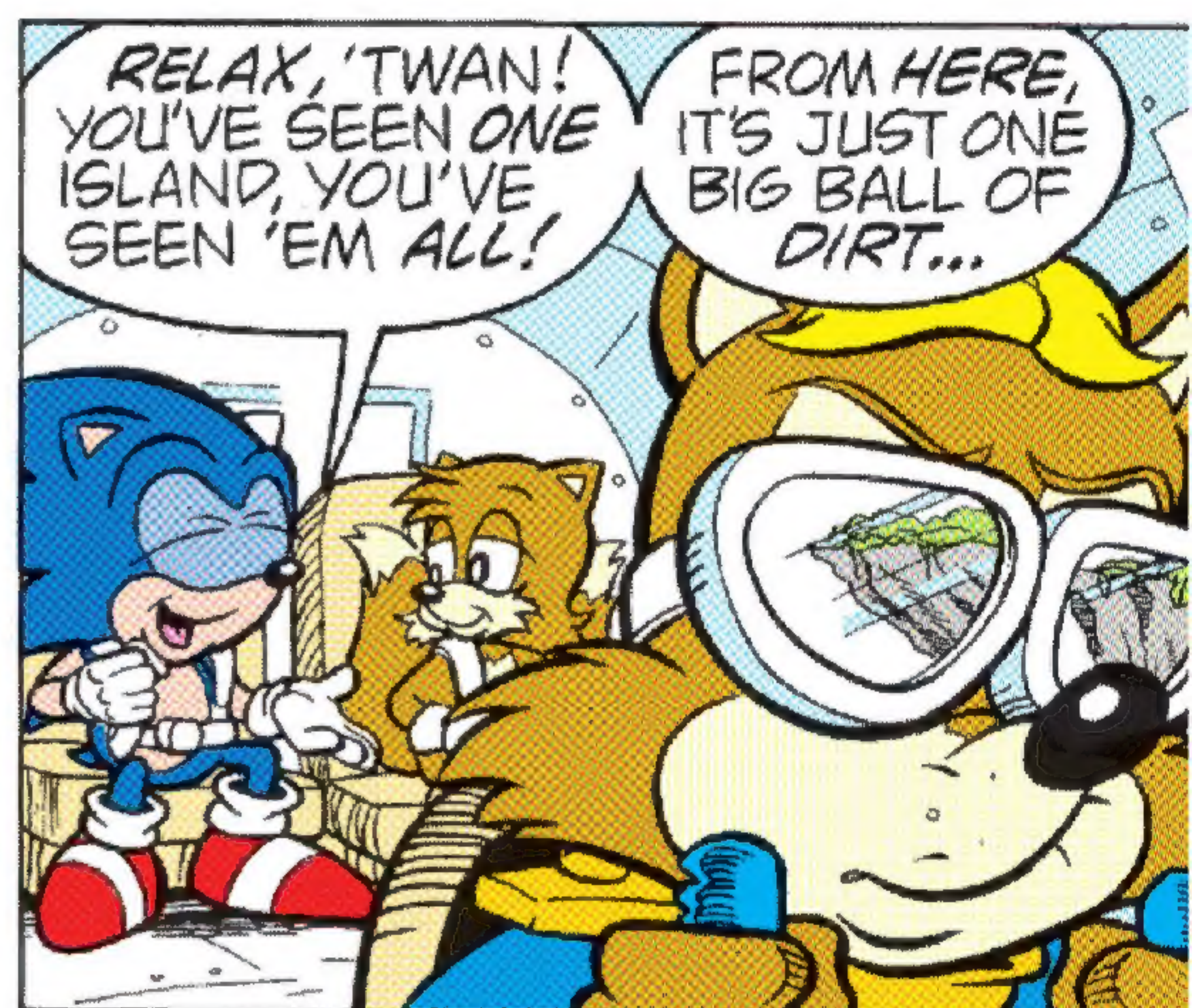
ANTOINE! FLY SONIC AND TAILS OUT IN THE TURBO-PROP...

"...AND LET'S GET A CLOSER LOOK!"



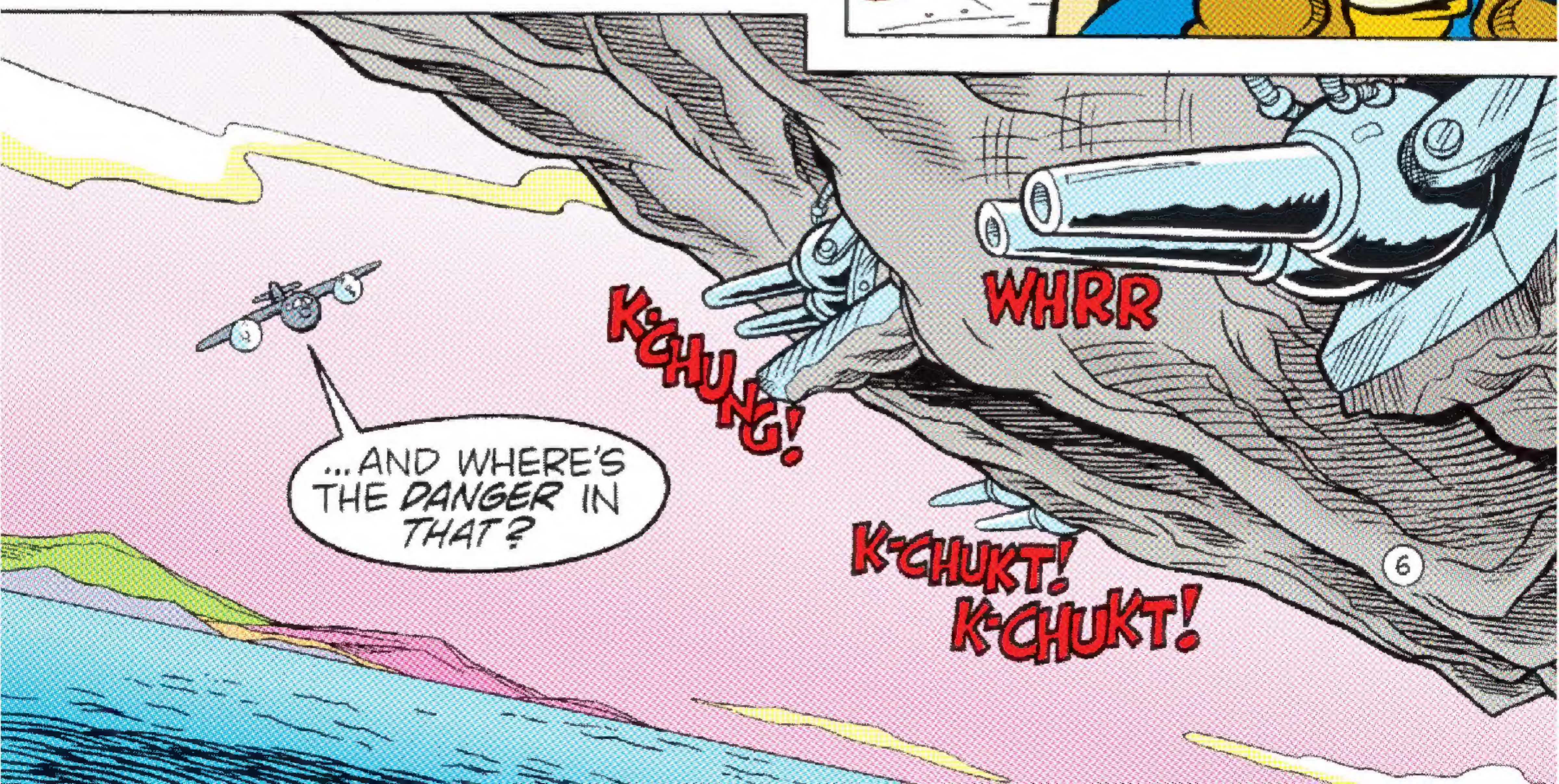
LOOK AT ZE SIZE OF ZAT THEENG!

TRÈS FANTASTIQUE!



RELAX, 'TWAN! YOU'VE SEEN ONE ISLAND, YOU'VE SEEN 'EM ALL!

FROM HERE, IT'S JUST ONE BIG BALL OF DIRT...



K-CHUNG!

WHRR

K-CHUKT!  
K-CHUKT!

...AND WHERE'S THE DANGER IN THAT?



NOT WAY  
COOL!

WE'RE  
UNDER  
ATTACK!

PHOOM!

PHOOM!

PHOOM!

ZUT  
ALORS!

I THOUGHT  
YOU SAID ZIS  
ISLAND WAS  
UNARMED!

IT WAS...

...UNTIL  
NOW!

SOMETHING  
NEW HAS BEEN  
ADDED!

HEAVY  
ARTILLERY...

...AND  
ENGINES!

TAKE US  
TOPSIDE, 'TWAN!  
LET'S GET TO THE  
BOTTOM OF  
THIS!



ZE GUNS, IT SEEMS, CANNOT BE AIMED ABOVE ZE HORIZON!

I WAS COUNTING ON THAT!

GET YOURSELF AND THE TURBO-PROP BACK TO BASE...

...WE'RE GOIN' IN!

GERONIMO!!!

NEED A LIFT, SONIC?

NO THANKS, PAL...

...BEING PIGGY-BACKED IS BAD FOR MY IMAGE!

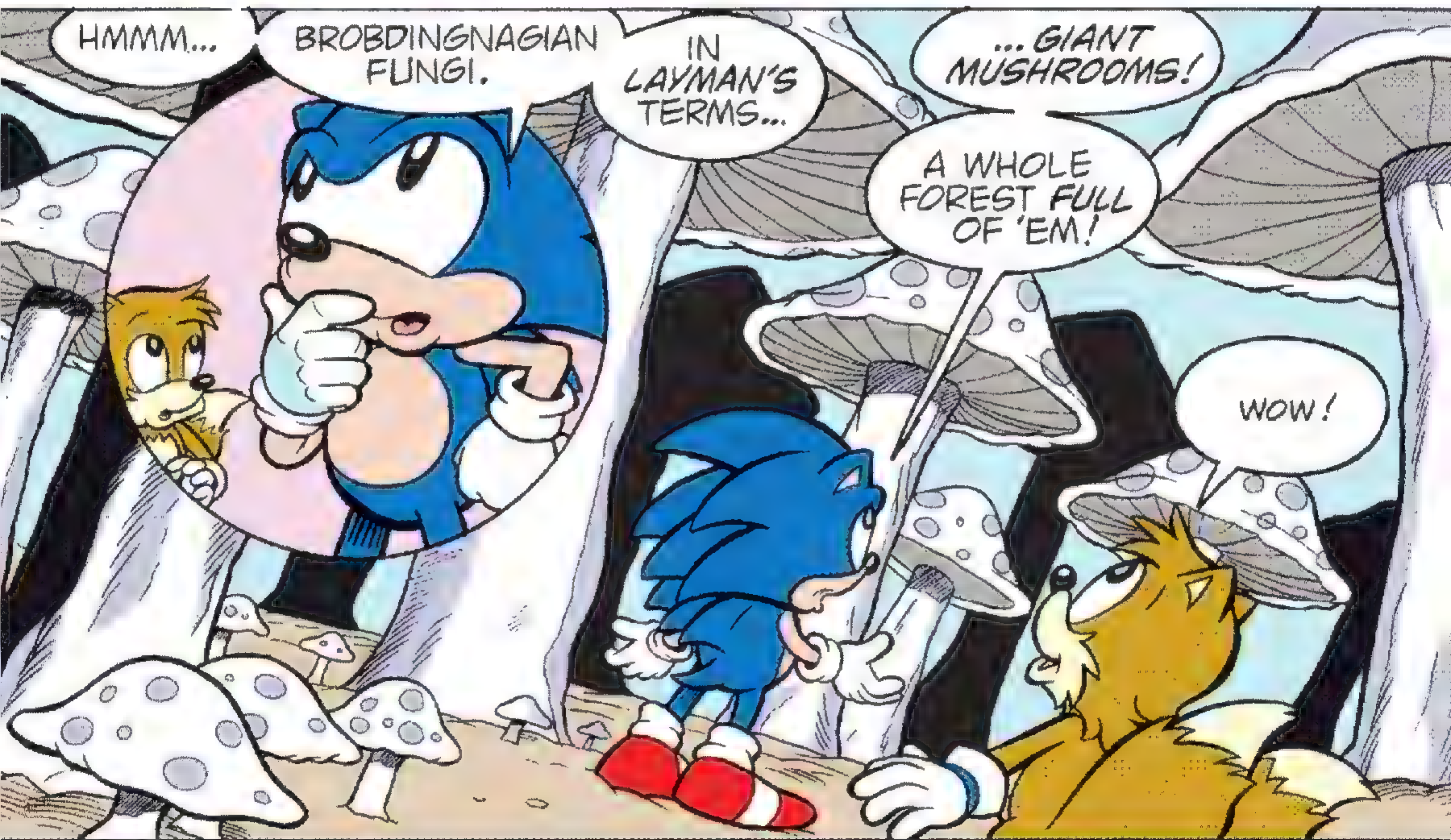
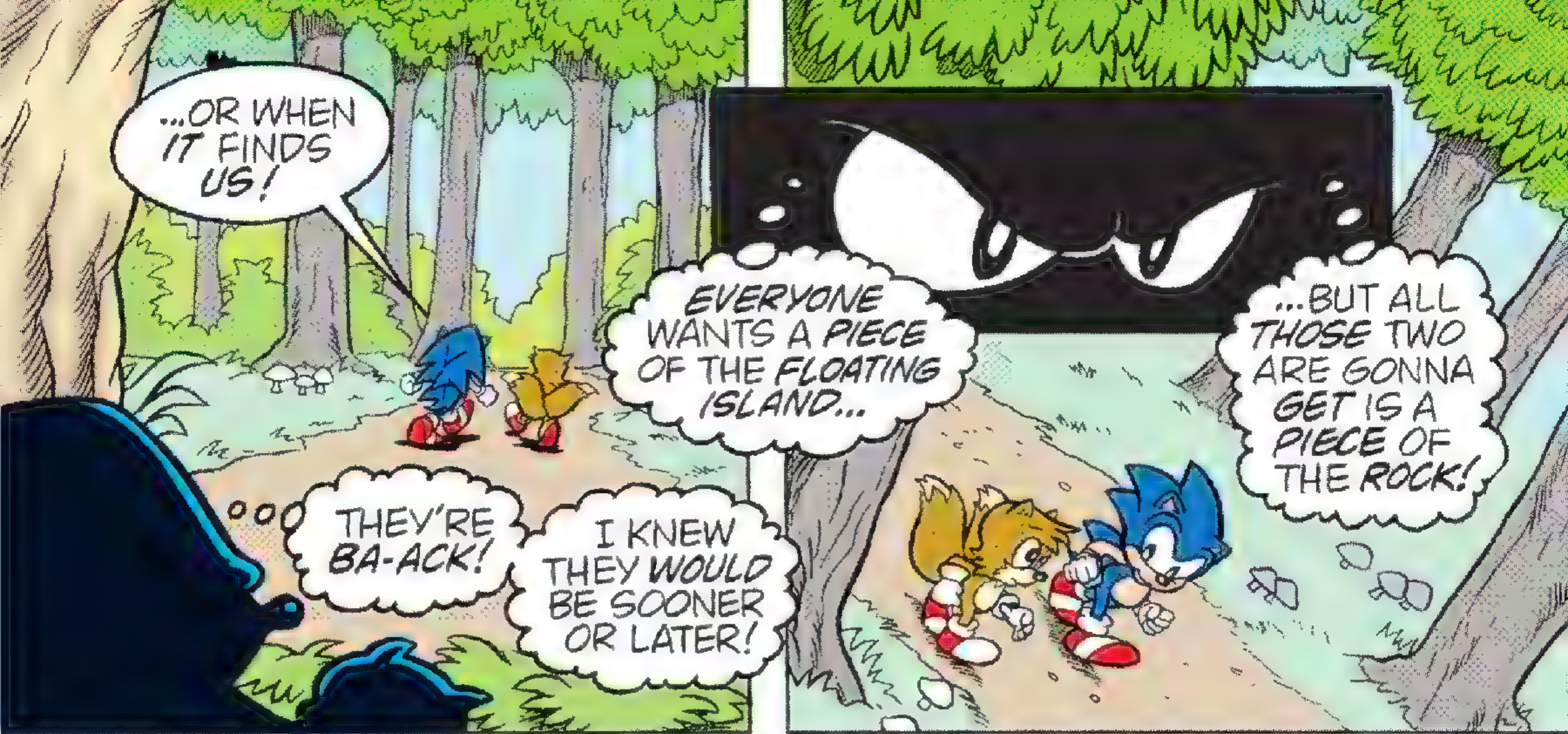
SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR, ANYWAY?

I'M NOT QUITE SURE, TAILS!

WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE FIND IT...

WHUUMPH!

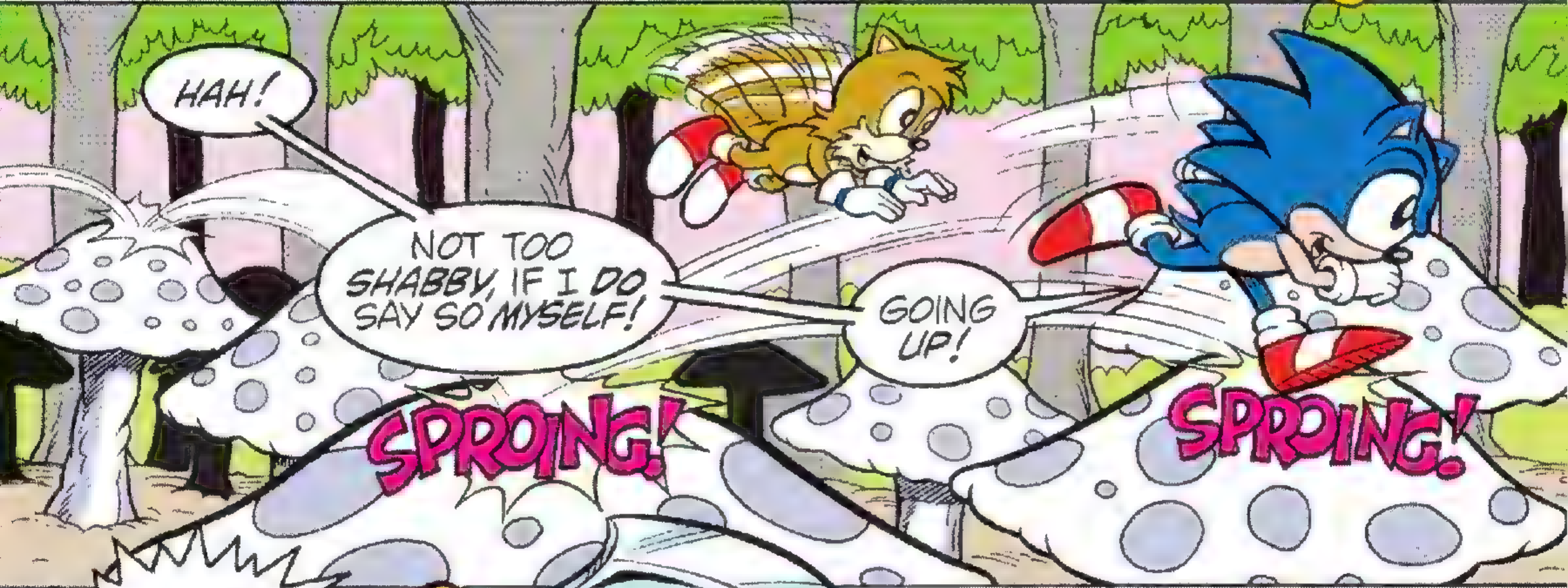
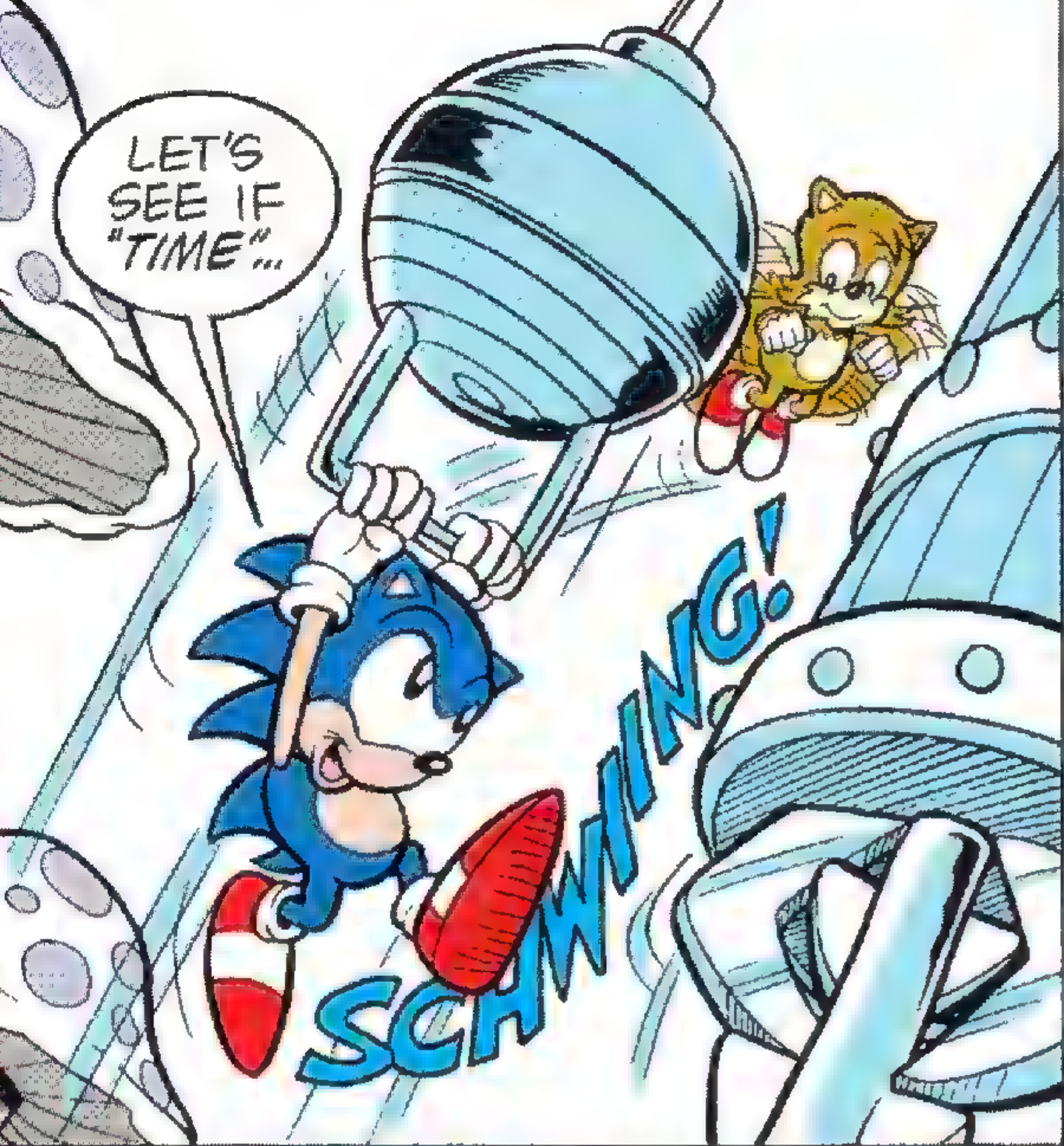




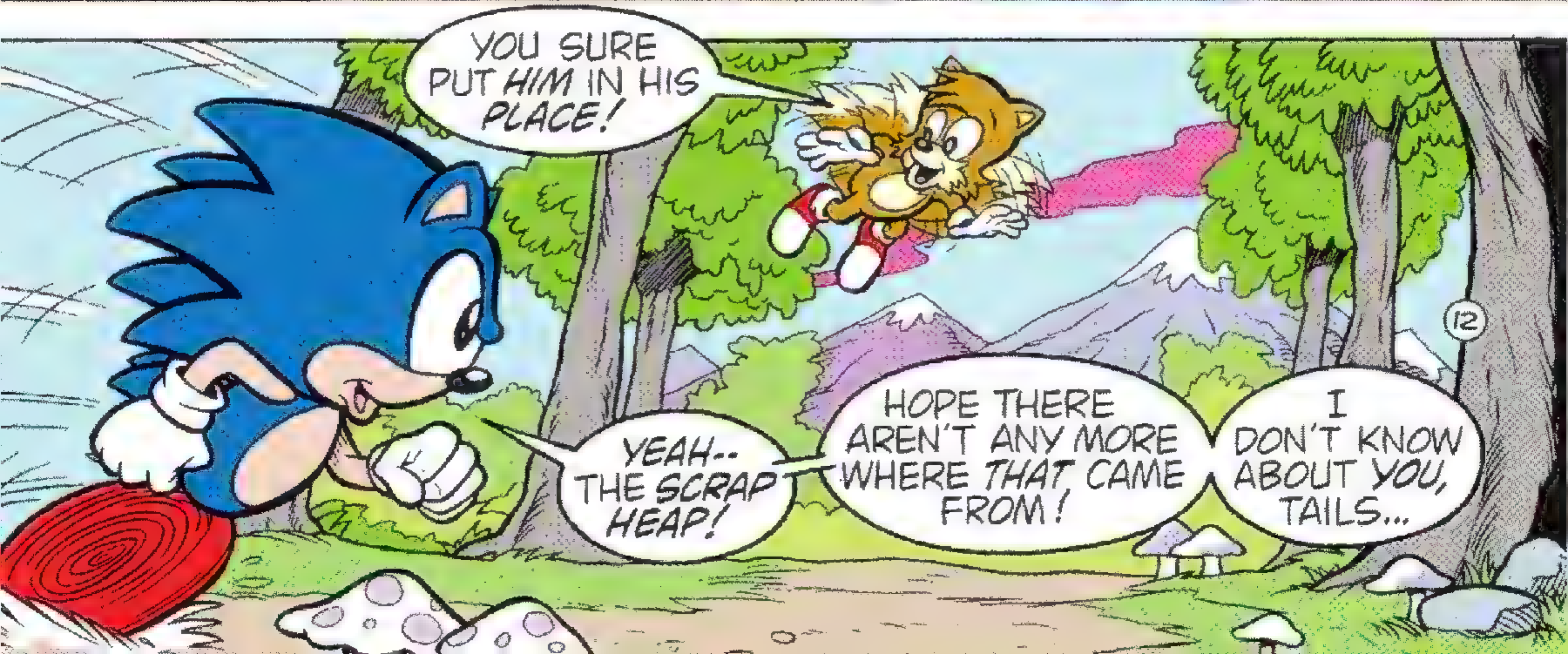
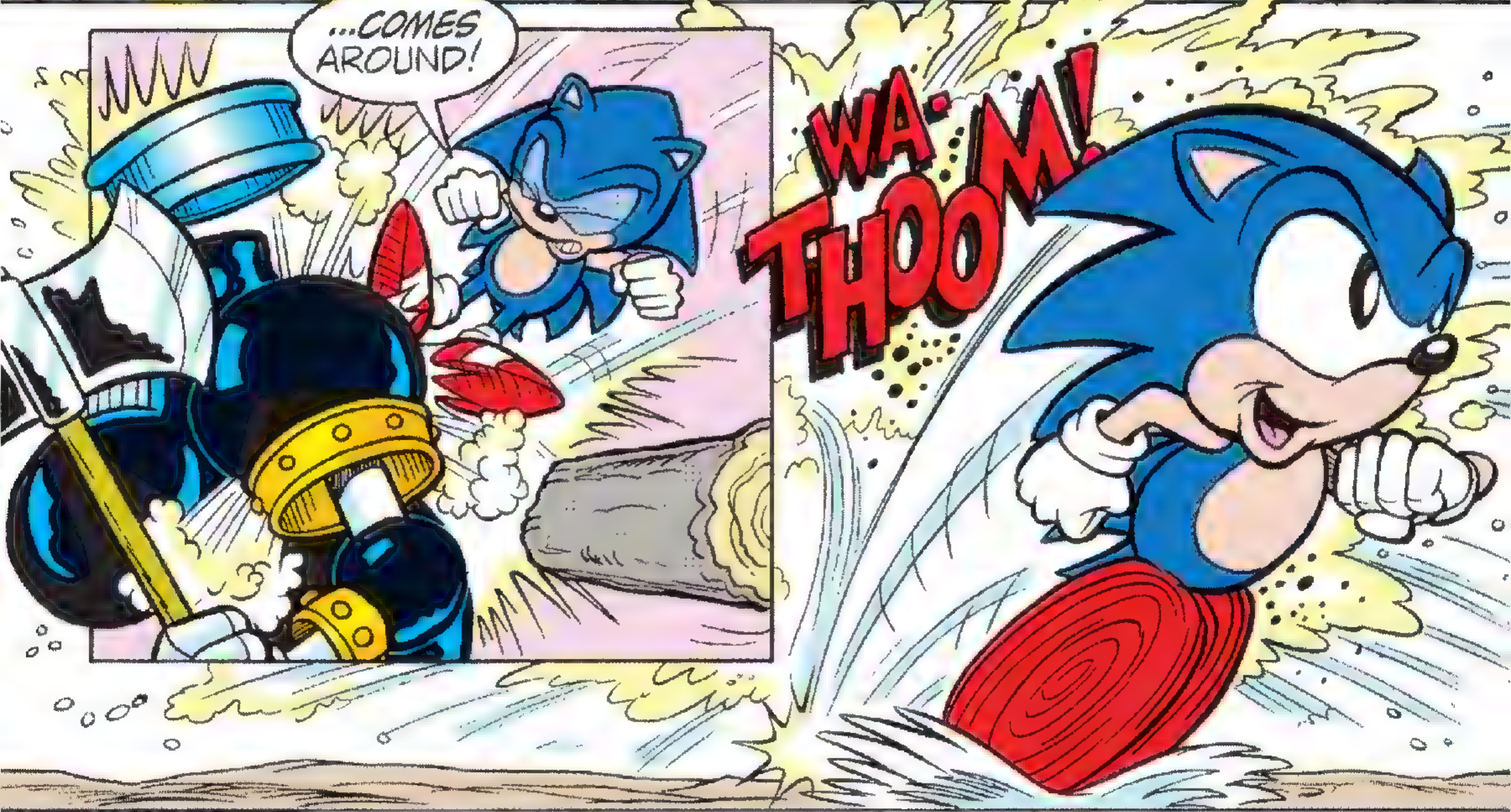
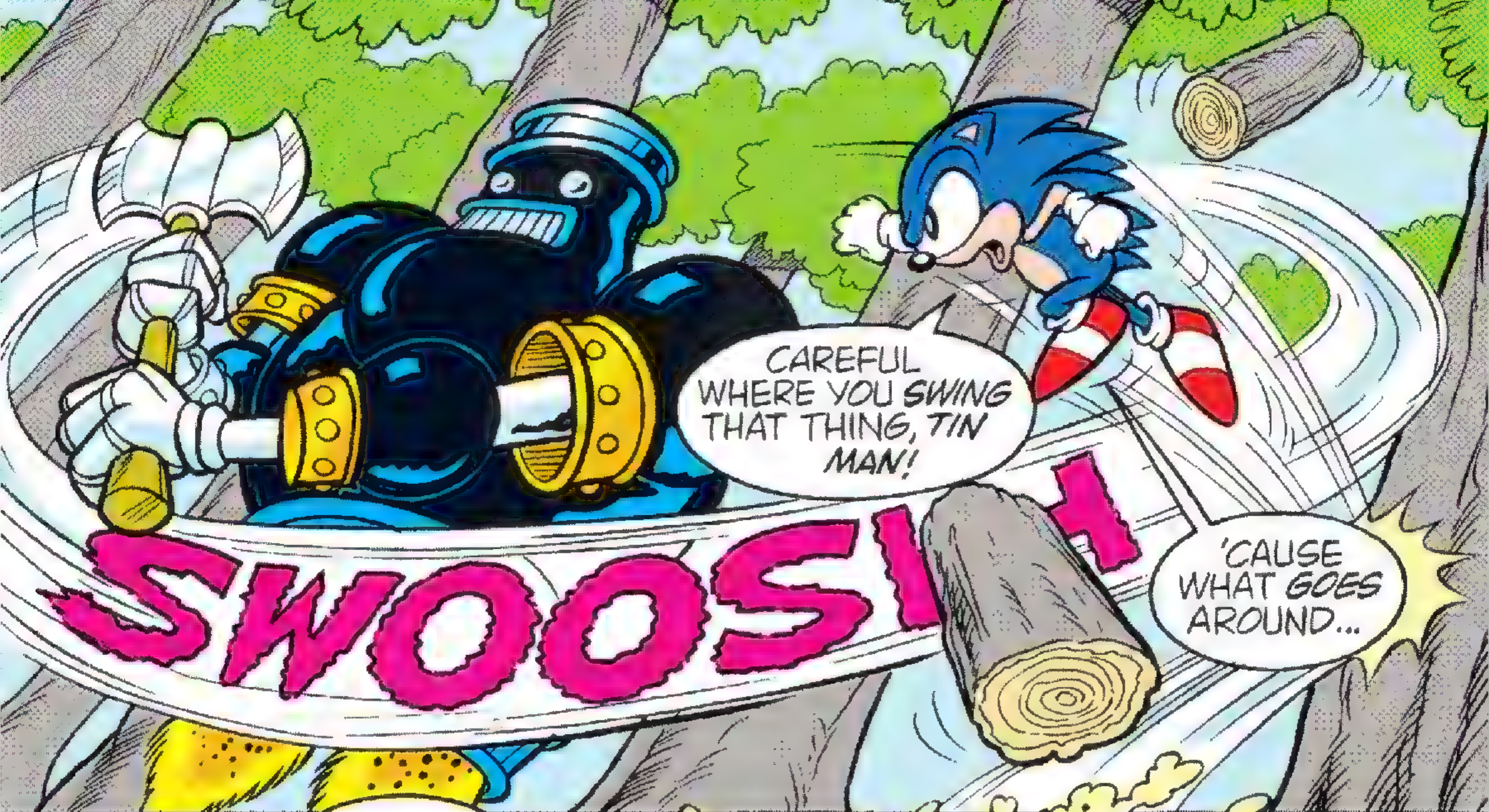














...BUT I'M  
GETTING PRETTY SICK  
OF HAVING THE RUG  
PULLED OUT FROM  
UNDER...

HEY!

FLOOMP!

HAA  
ALLP!

ME  
AND MY BIG  
MOUTH!

UHG!

LUCKY I  
MANAGED  
TO SNAG  
THIS  
LEDGE...

WHUUMPH!

...OR I  
WOULD'VE BEEN  
IN DEEP, DEEP  
TROUBLE!

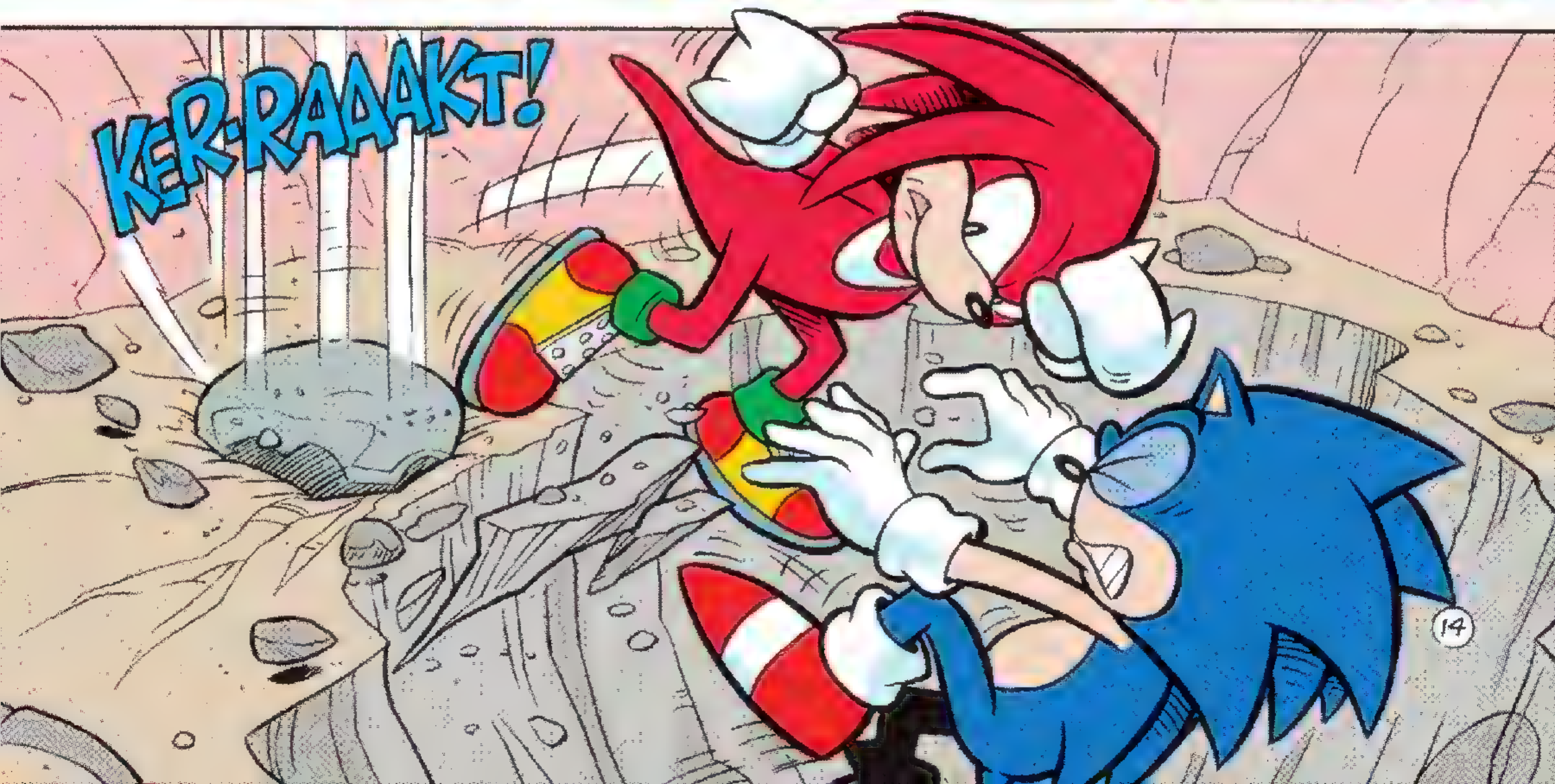
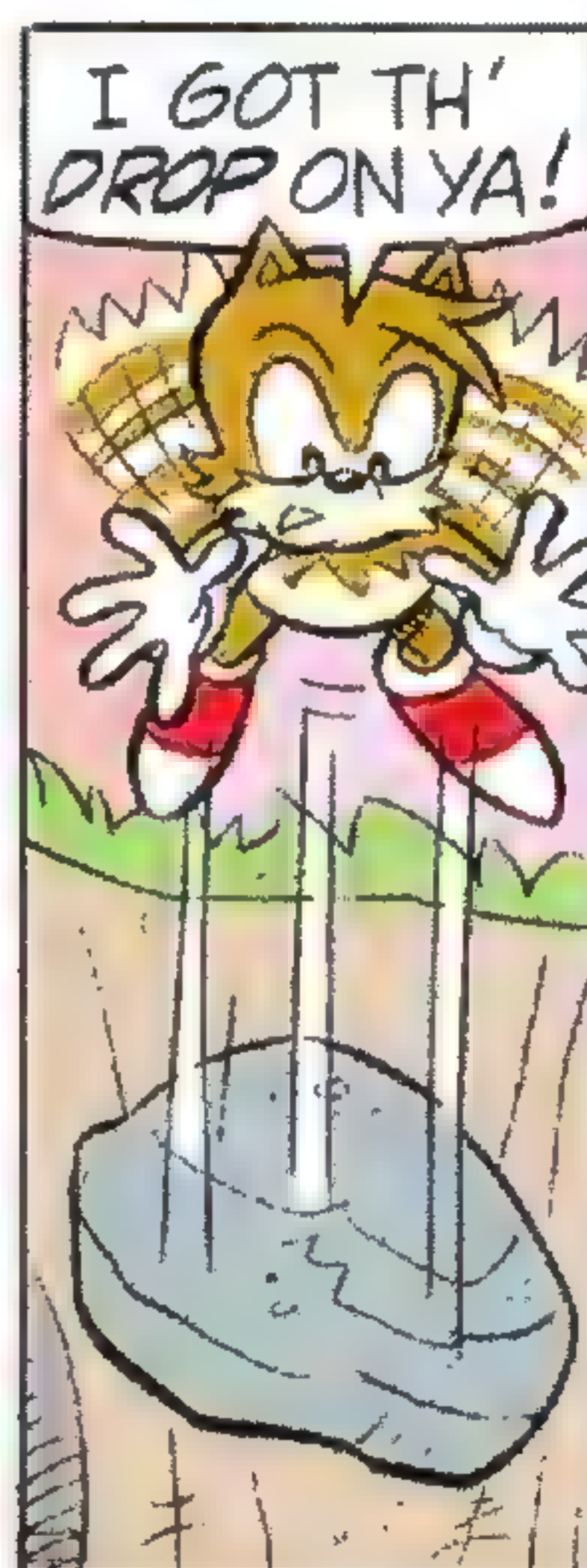
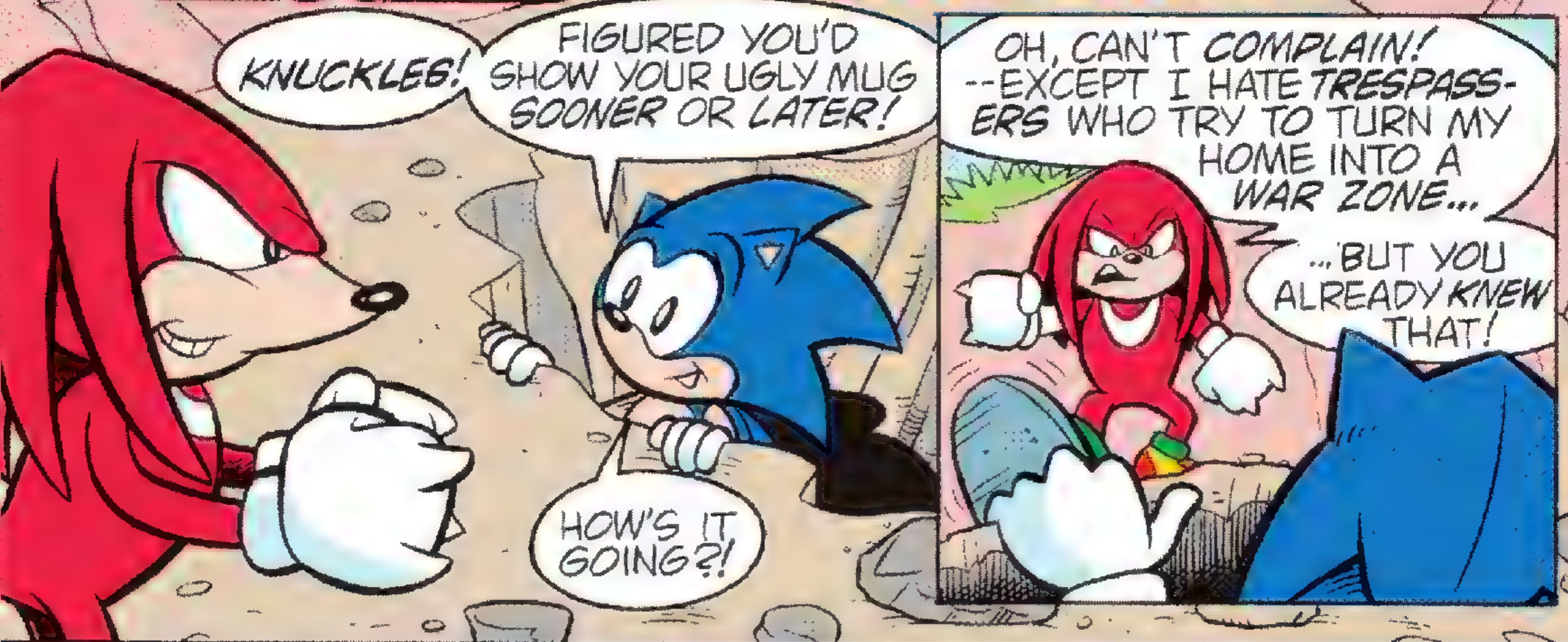
WHO  
SAYS YOU'RE  
NOT?

HI, THERE!

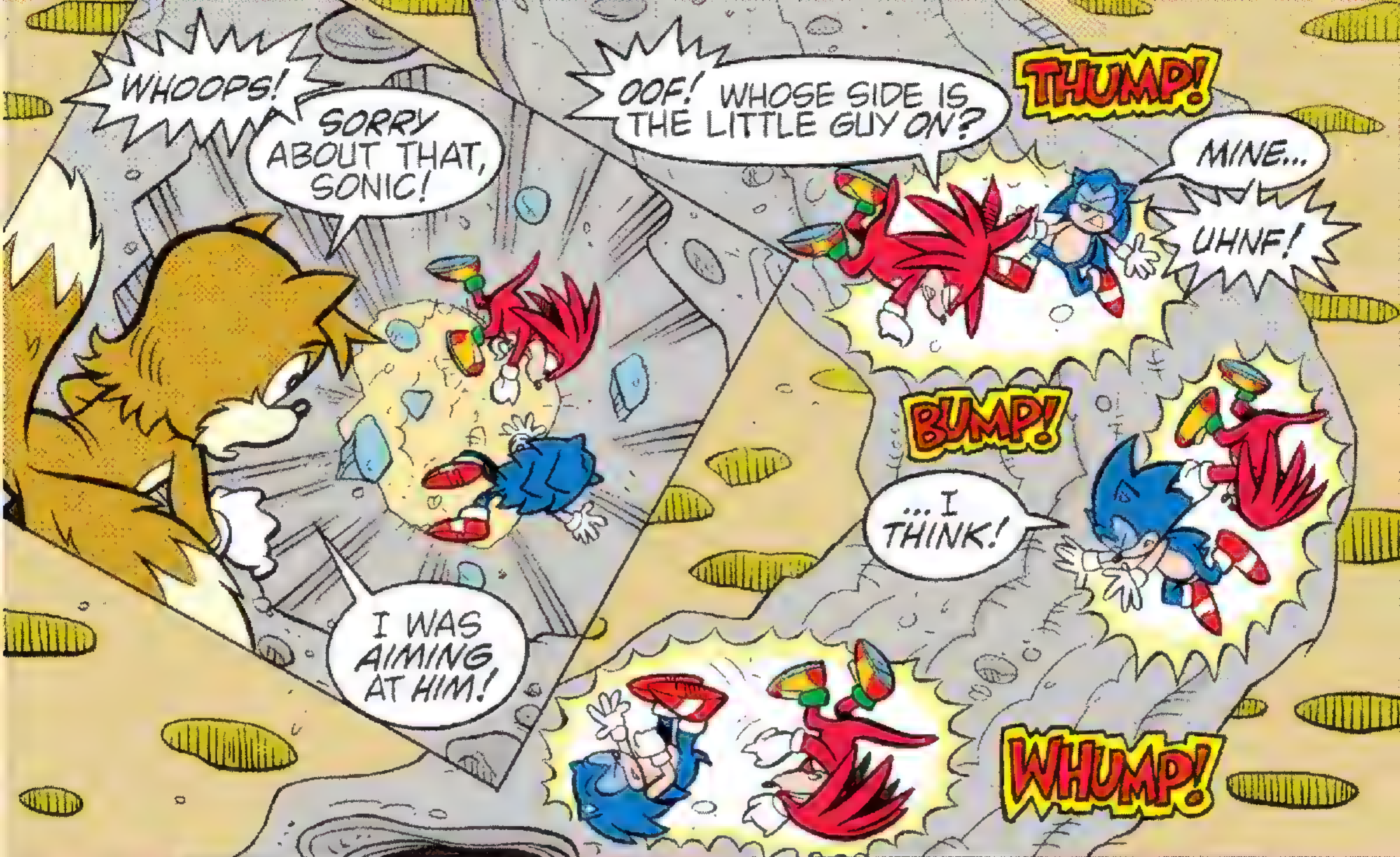
MISS  
ME?

WHO'S THE MYSTERIOUS  
STRANGER? WE'LL GIVE  
YOU ONE GUESS!









WHOOOPS!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, SONIC!

OOF! WHOSE SIDE IS THE LITTLE GUY ON?

THUMP!

MINE...

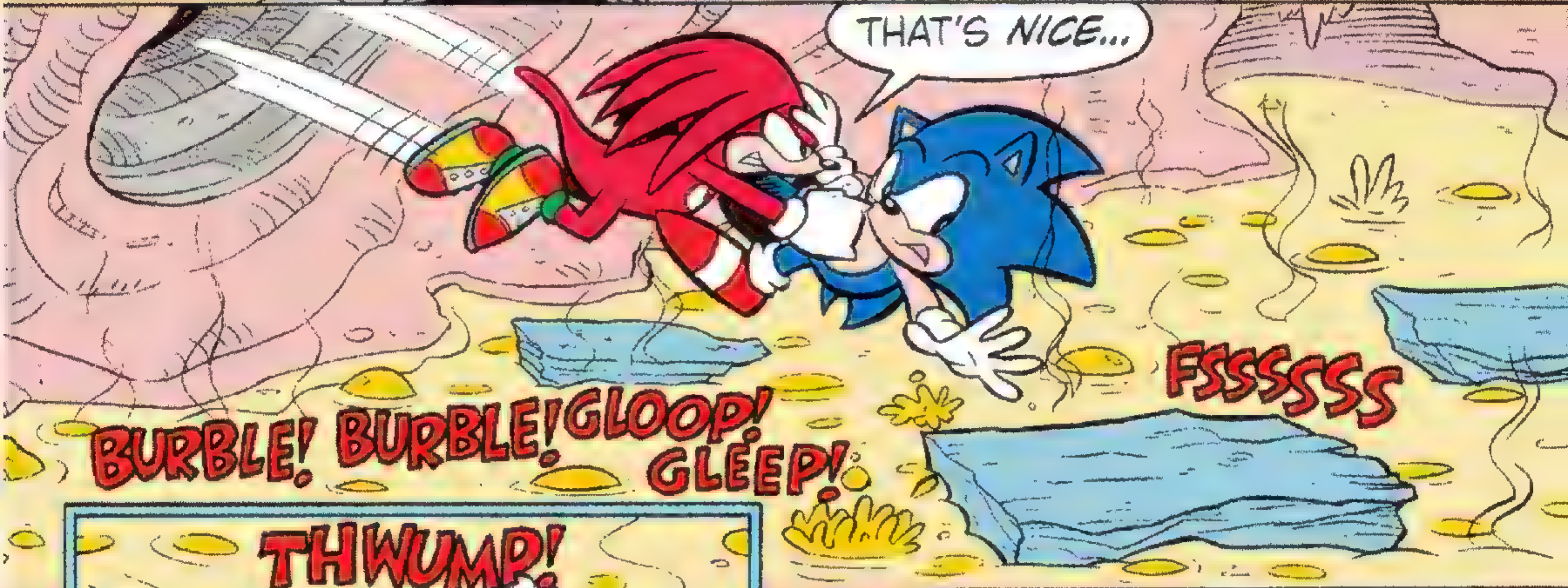
UHNH!

BUMP!

...I THINK!

WHUMP!

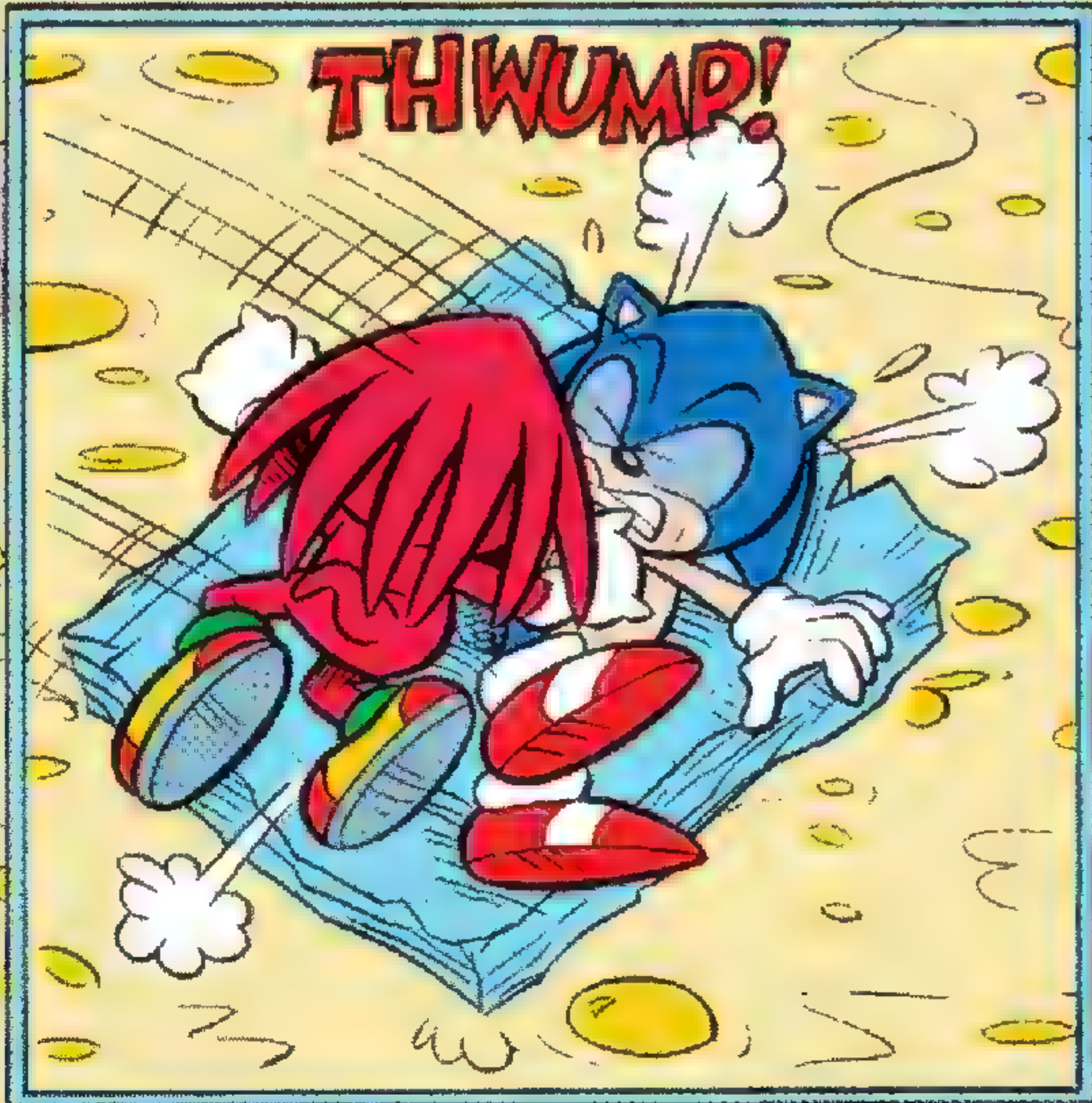
I WAS AIMING AT HIM!



THAT'S NICE...

BURBLE! BURBLE! GLOOP! GLEEP!

FSSSSSS



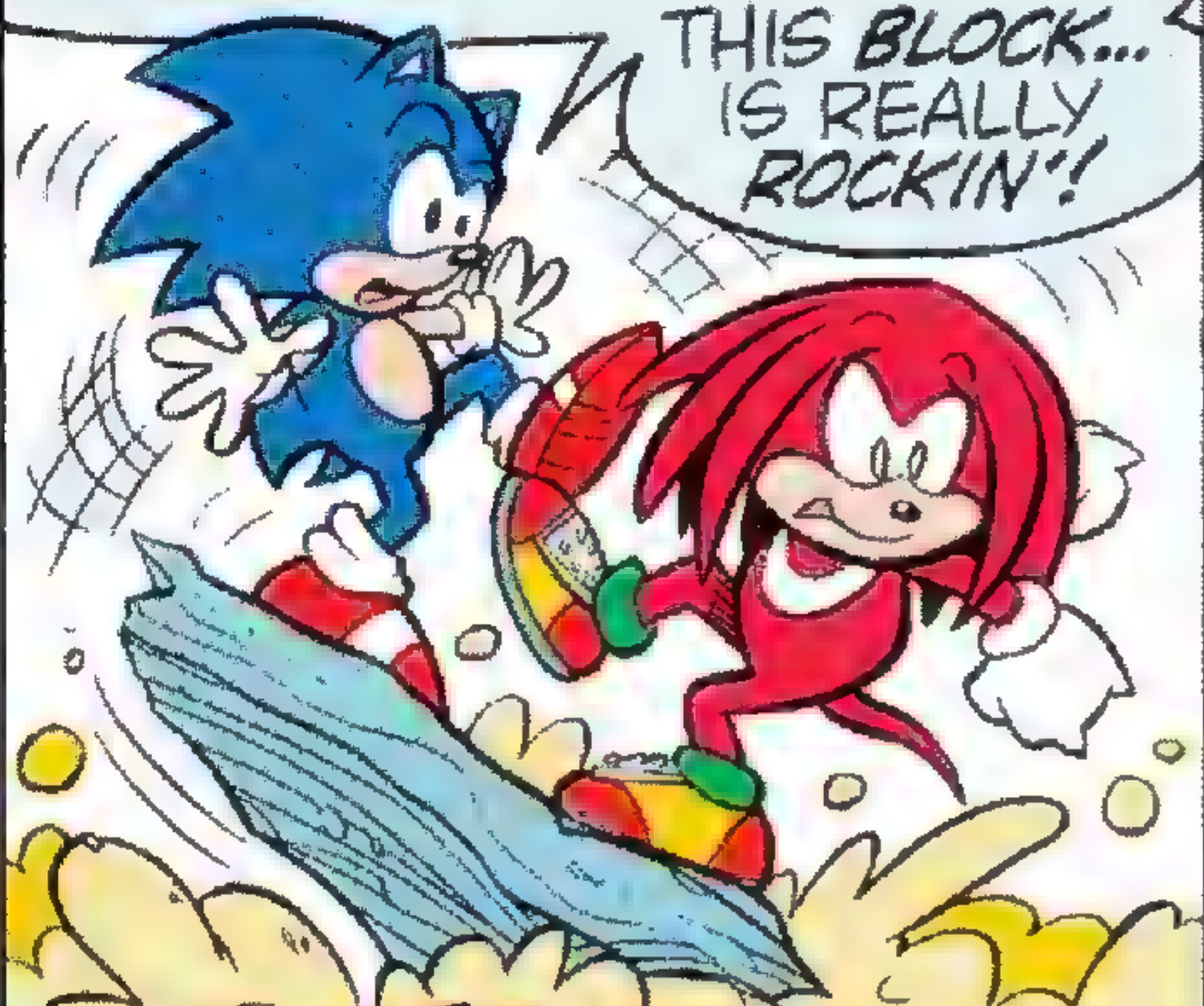
THWUMP!



...CAUSE YOU'RE GONNA NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET!



UH--KNUCKLES? I THINK WE'RE BOTH GONNA NEED SOME HELP! THIS BLOCK... IS REALLY ROCKIN'!



RRRRRUUMMBBLLLLLL

NOT TO WORRY, PEOPLE...



SHOOOOOM!

... 'CAUSE WE ARE OUTTA HERE!



THANKS, PAL!

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT BEING "PIGGY-BACKED"? FORGET IT!



YEAH, THANKS, PAL! I'M PRETTY GOOD AT FLYING AND GLIDING -- BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IF I COULD GET ENOUGH ALTITUDE!

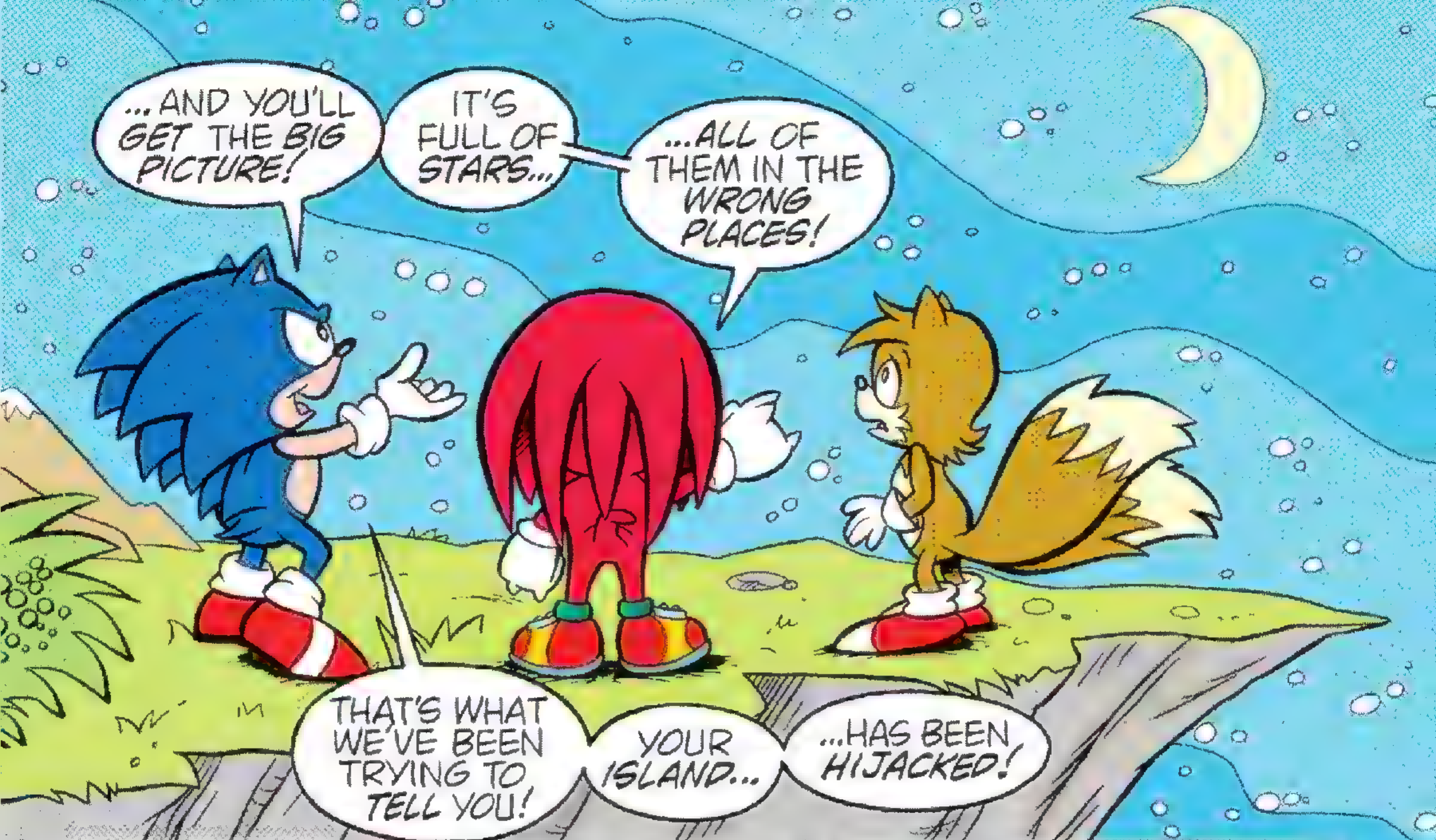


HOWEVER, I STILL HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT MY HOME FROM INTRUDERS!

AGREED! BUT WE'RE NOT THE ENEMY! LOOK! UP IN THE SKY...







...AND YOU'LL GET THE BIG PICTURE!

IT'S FULL OF STARS...

...ALL OF THEM IN THE WRONG PLACES!

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU!

YOUR ISLAND...

...HAS BEEN HIJACKED!



BY NOW, WE'RE OVER KNOTHOLE VILLAGE--'COURSE IT'S DARK, SO NOBODY'D NOTICE!



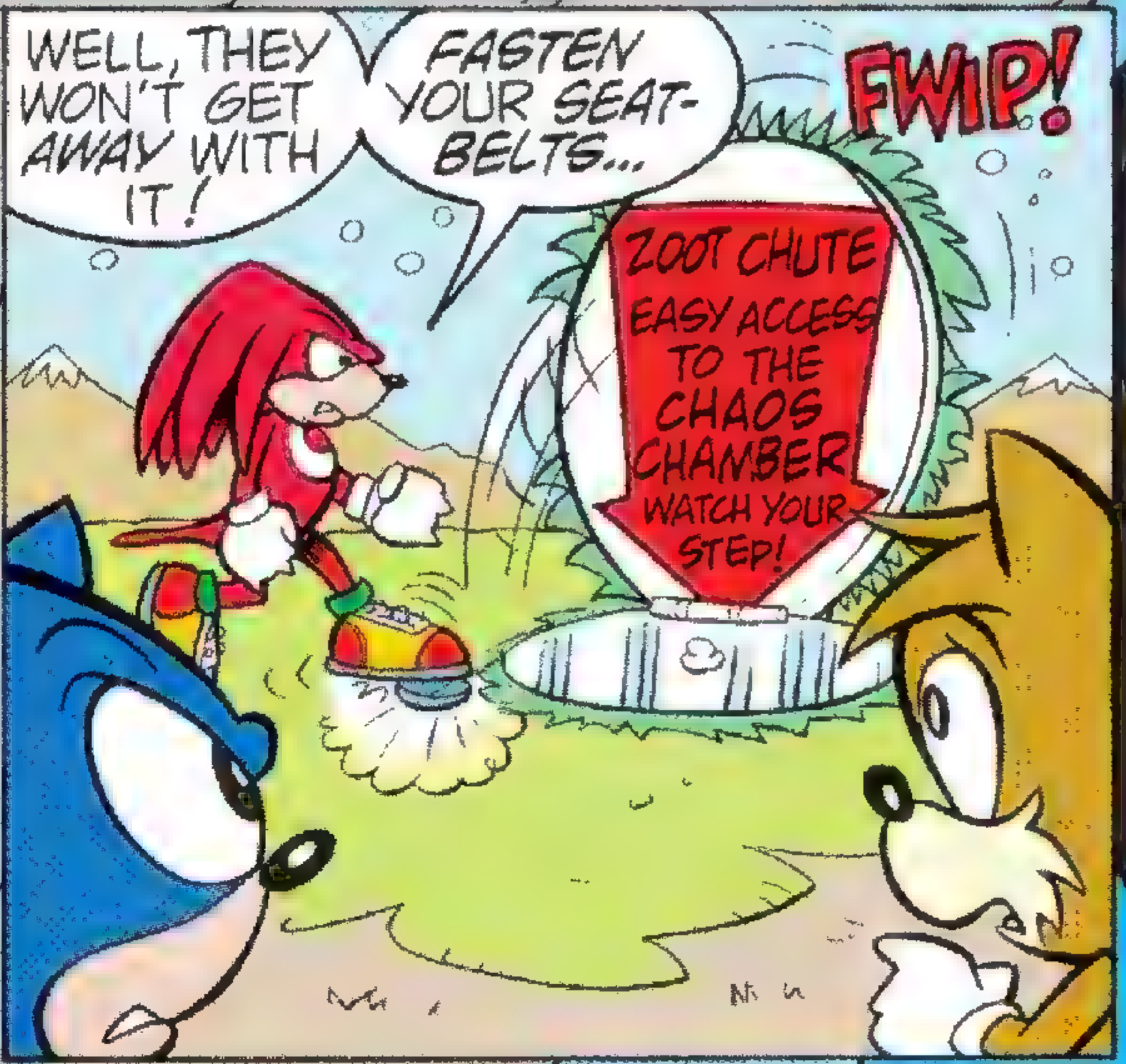
SOMEONE'S REFITTED THE UNDERSIDE OF YOUR ISLAND WITH ENGINES...AND GUNS!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE!



D'OH! FOOLED AGAIN! THE FLOATING ISLAND HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A FLYING FORTRESS!

BUT WHO..?



WELL, THEY WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

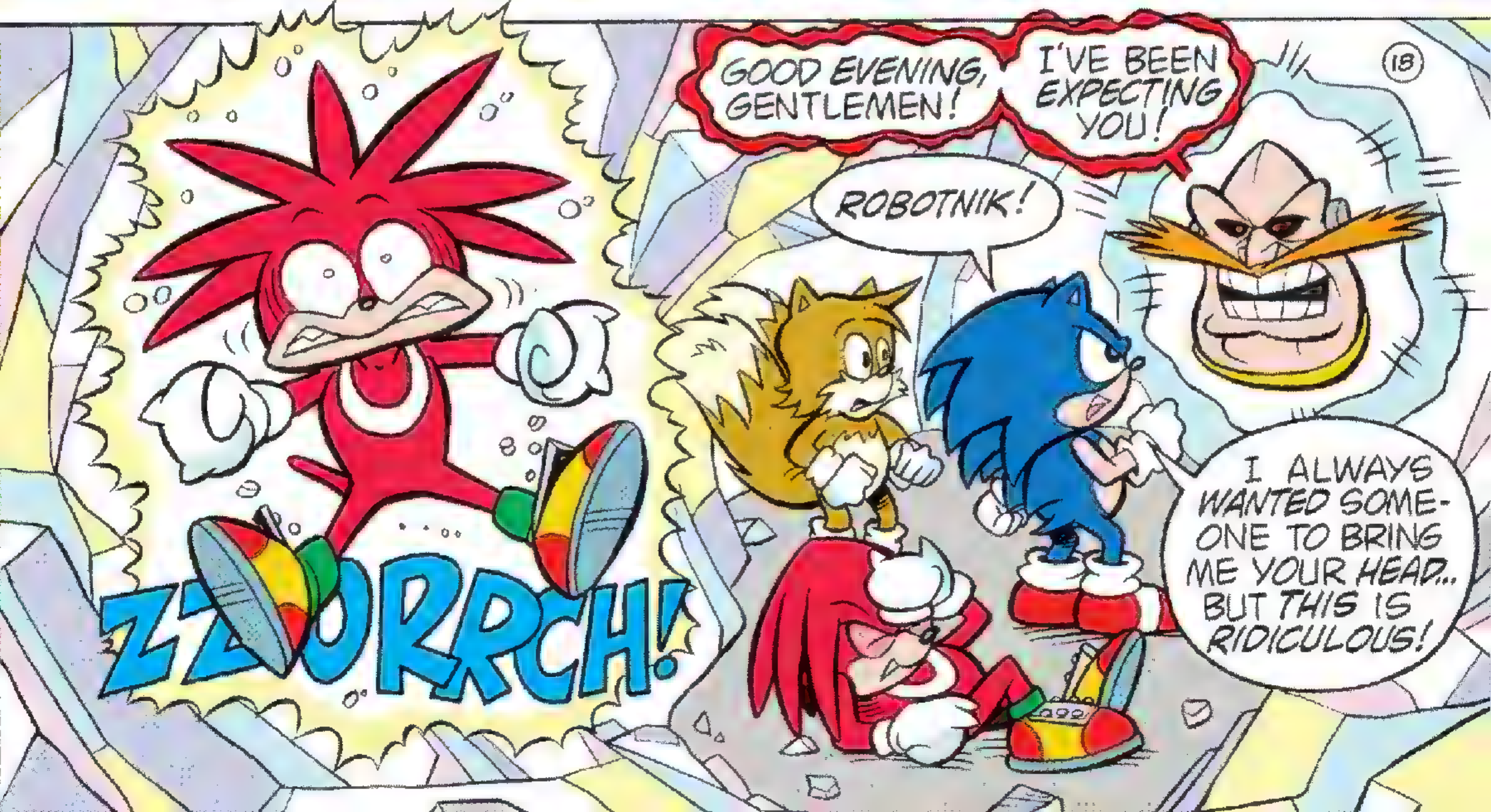
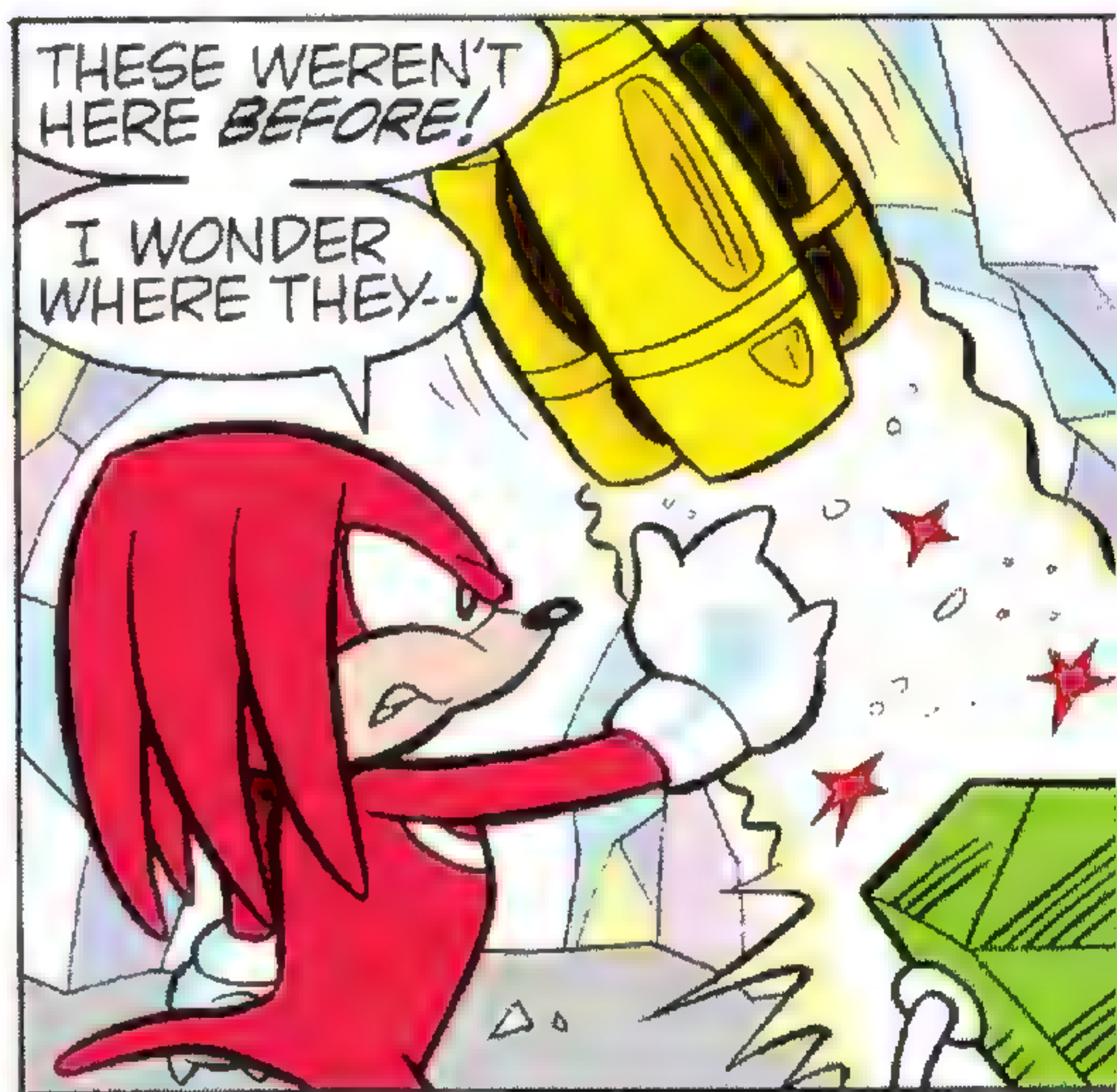
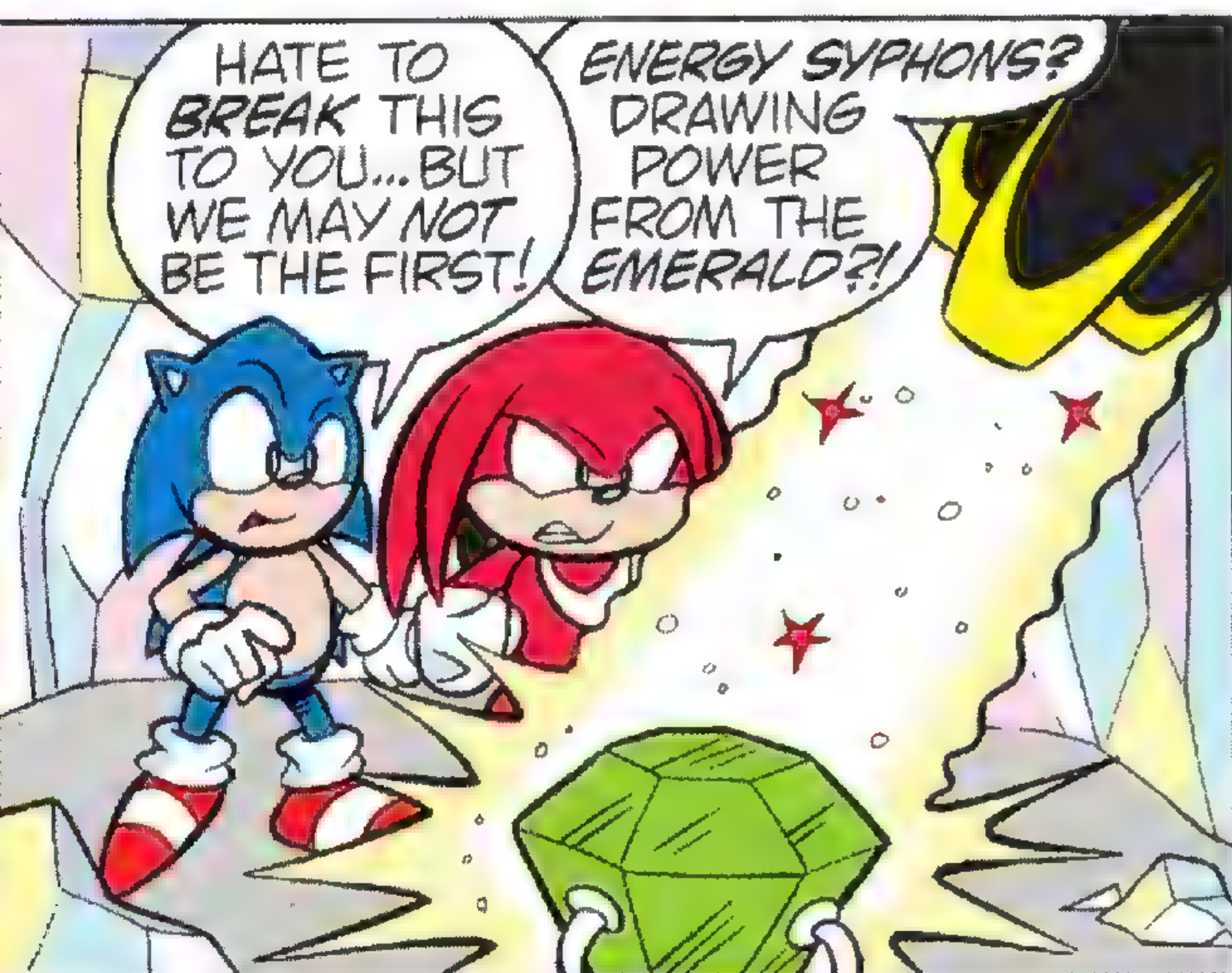
FASTEN YOUR SEAT-BELTS...

**FWIP!**

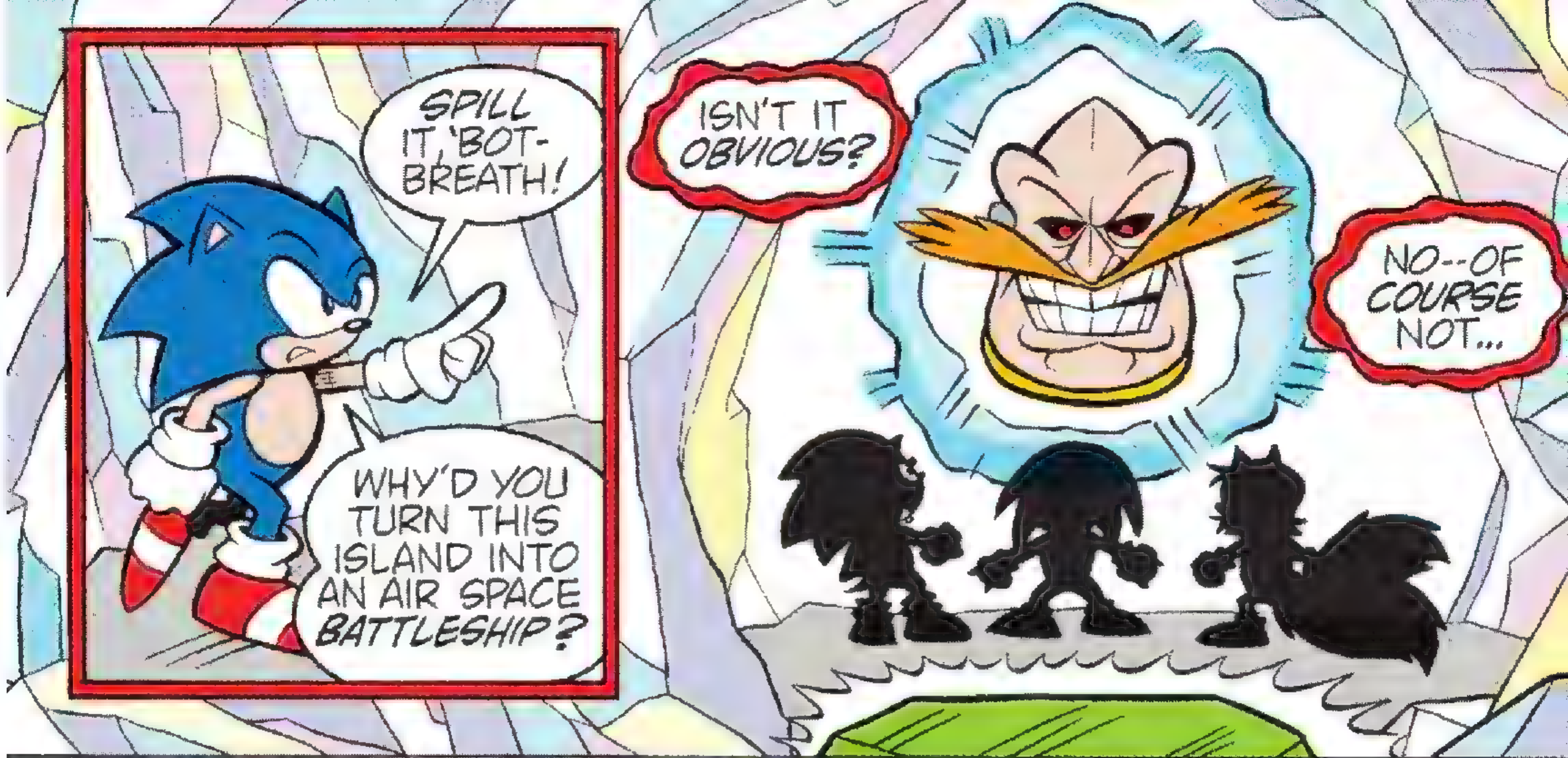
ZOOT CHUTE  
EASY ACCESS  
TO THE  
CHAOS  
CHAMBER  
WATCH YOUR  
STEP!











SPILL  
IT, 'BOT-  
BREATH!

ISN'T IT  
OBVIOUS?

NO--OF  
COURSE  
NOT...

WHY'D YOU  
TURN THIS  
ISLAND INTO  
AN AIR SPACE  
BATTLESHIP?

"...FOR ONLY I HAVE  
THE VISION TO  
RECOGNIZE THE  
FLOATING ISLAND'S  
VAST UNTAPPED  
STRATEGIC MILITARY  
POTENTIAL!"

"SINCE DISCOVERING ITS EXISTENCE,  
LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF HOURS HAVE BEEN  
DEVOTED TO OPERATION: FLYING DESTROYER!"

"PHASE ONE INVOLVED AT-  
TACHING A MOBILE COM-  
MAND BASE TO THE  
ISLAND'S  
FOUNDATION..."

**THWOCK!**

"...AND UNLEASHING A  
SERIES OF PARADROIDS...  
COMPLEX, AUTOMATED  
MECHANISMS DESIGNED  
TO REFASHION ITS SHAPE  
FROM TROPICAL PARADISE..."

**WHRRR**  
**KLAKETA-**  
**KLAKETA-**  
**KLAKETA-**  
**K-CHUNG!**

"...TO ENGINE OF  
DESTRUCTION!"

RECESSED  
SHOCK CANNONS

ME

YOU

ENERGY  
SYPHONS

CHAOS  
EMERALD

RETRO-FITTED  
ENGINES

MODULAR  
COMMAND  
CENTER

CHAOS CHAMBER



A large, stylized drawing of a hot air balloon. The balloon is filled with horizontal stripes of yellow, orange, and red. It has a simple black outline and is floating against a light blue sky. The drawing is done in a childlike, expressive style with thick lines and visible brushstrokes.

# FLOATING ISLAND

**K-CHUNG!**

WHRRR  
K-CHUK!

**K-CHUKT!**

**K-CHUKT!**

**FWA-VOOOOOOM!**

[illegible]









"...WE'RE  
HEADIN' FOR  
A FALL!"

BUCKET HEAD!  
I REALIZE  
THAT!

WE - WILL -  
BREAK -  
UP - IN -

MASTER -  
WE - ARE -  
FALLING!

NO! -- WE'RE  
BREAKING  
OFF!

KLIKT!



THE  
FOOL!

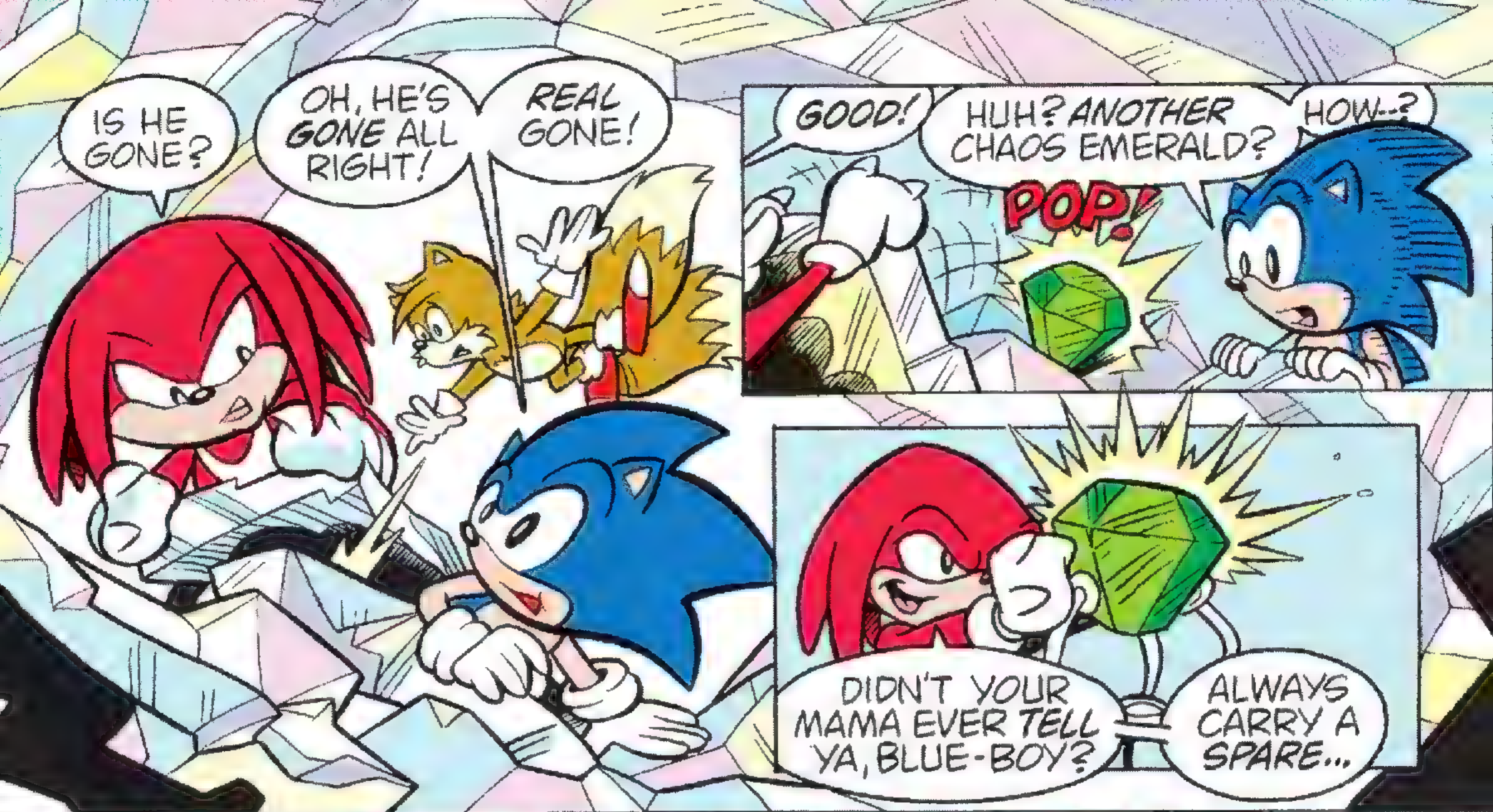
HE FORGOT THEY WERE  
EIGHT MILES HIGH!

NOW KNOTHOLE  
VILLAGE WILL BE  
DESTROYED...

...WITHOUT ME  
HAVING TO FIRE  
A SINGLE SHOT!

HA HA HA HA  
HA HA

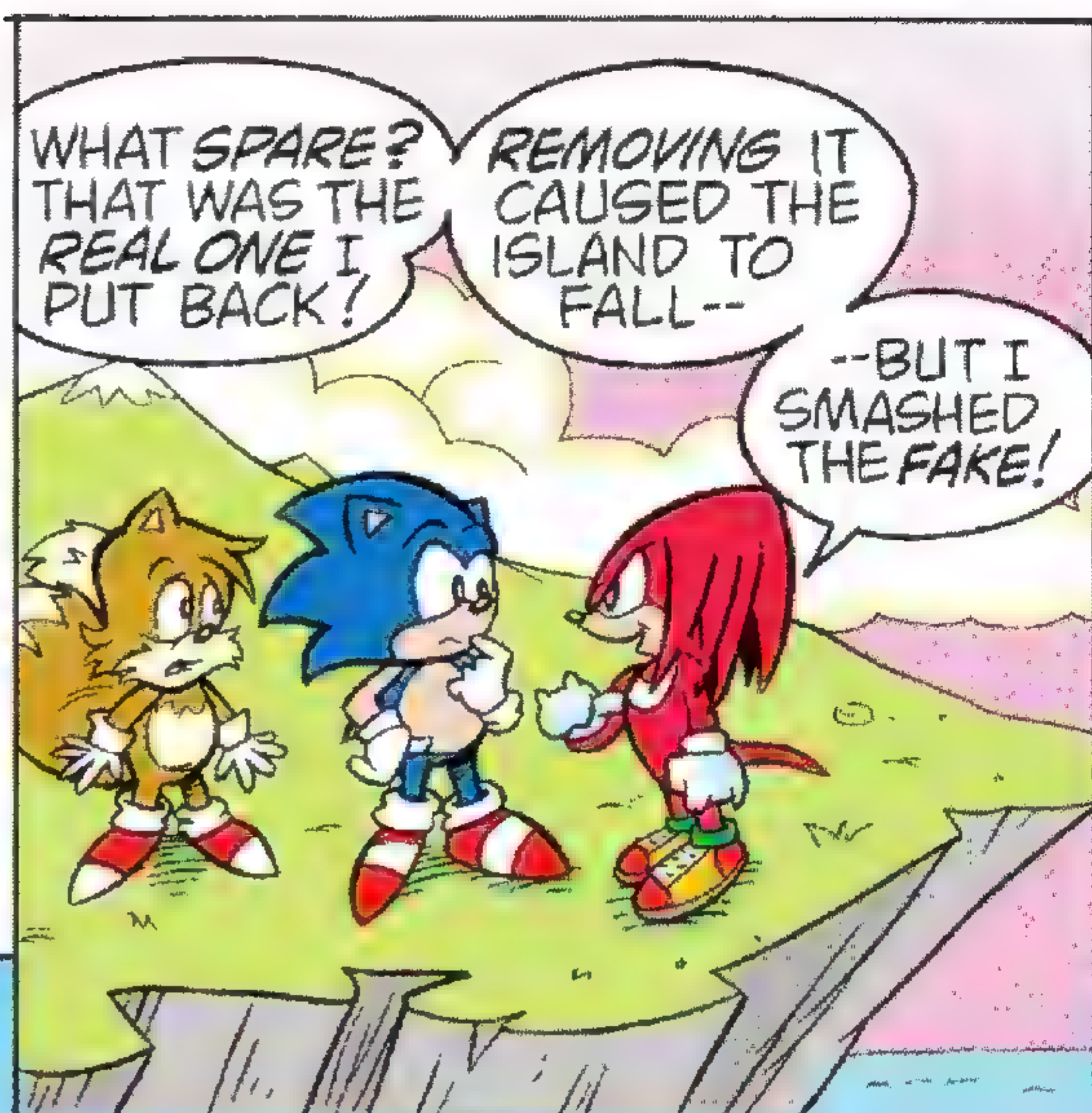
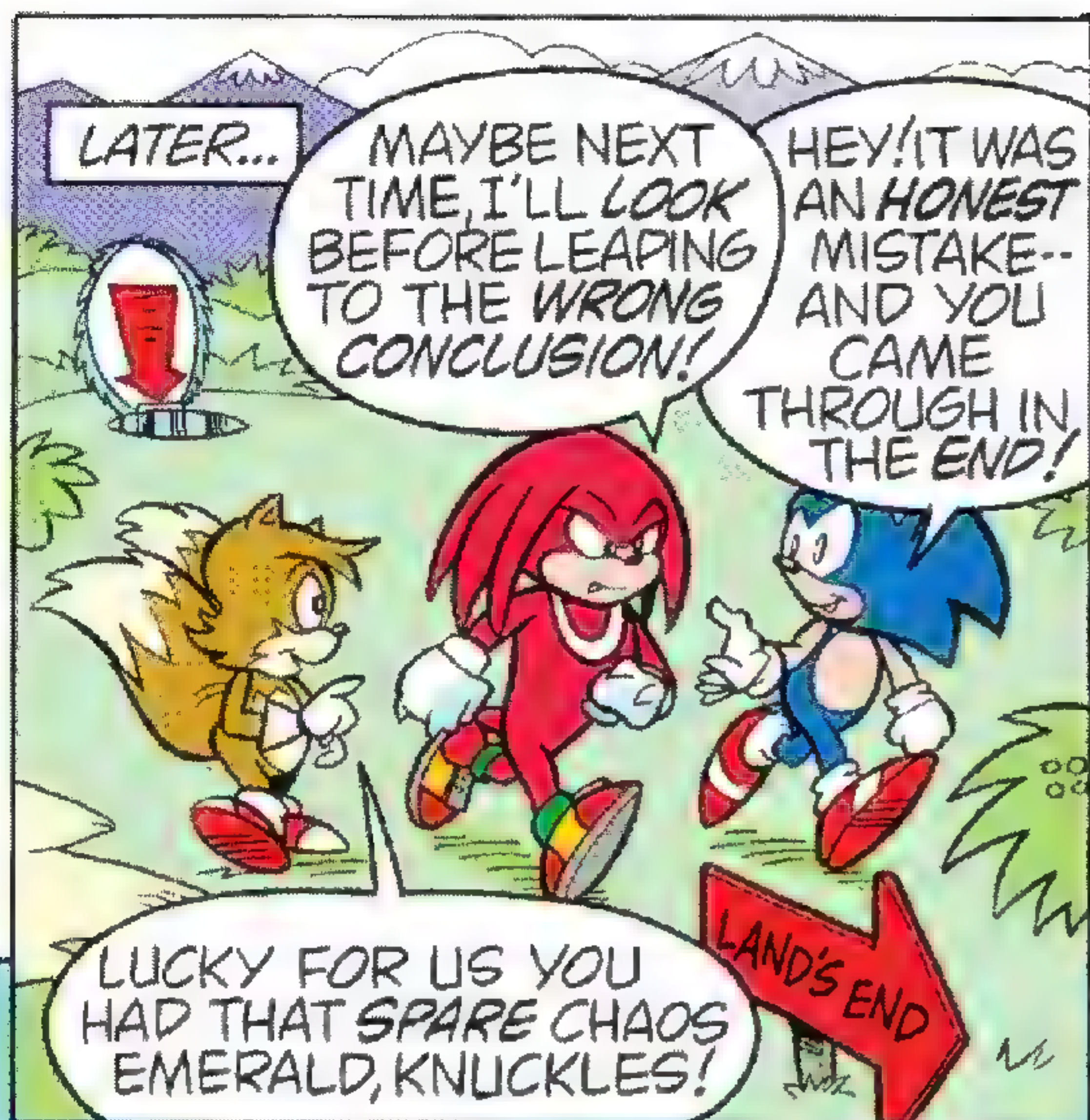




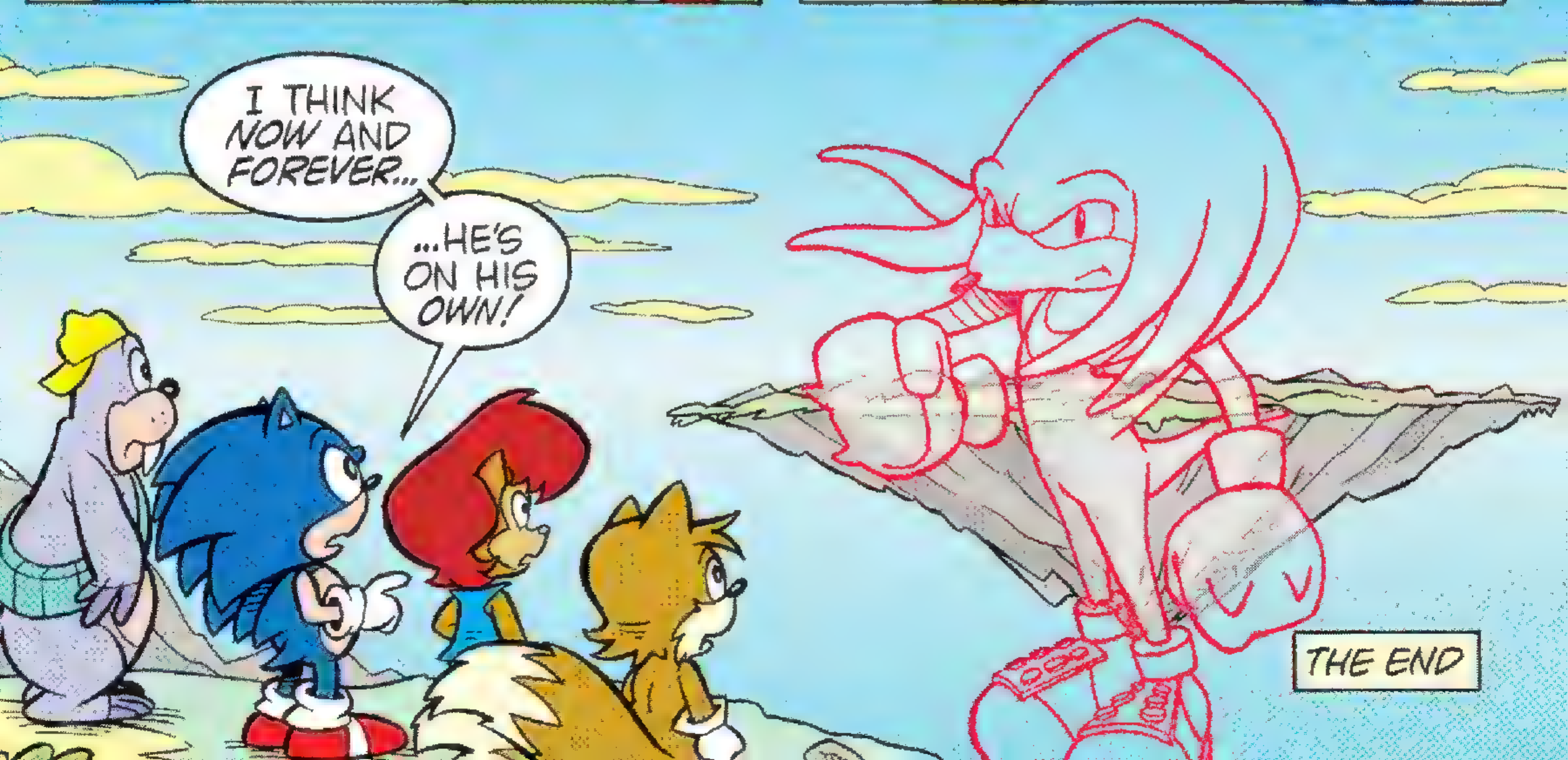
**SKA-REEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE**













SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS  
**KNUCKLES**<sup>TM</sup>

A QUIET DAY ON  
THE *FLOATING ISLAND*...

**KA-THOOOM!**

WHAT WAS *THAT*?!  
SOME *DUDE*  
STARTING TROUBLE  
ON *MY* TURF?

**FIRE  
DRILL**

SOUNDS LIKE IT  
CAME FROM  
THE BEACH!

I'D BETTER *WING*  
IT OVER THERE --  
*REAL FAST!*

*WHA--?*

*NOBODY'S HERE!*  
JUST A *CRATER!*



WHOEVER IT  
WAS MUST'VE  
TOOK OFF  
OUT OF SIGHT,  
OUT OF MIND--



--HOPING THEY  
WOULDN'T BE  
**SPOTTED** BY  
THE TOP DOG!

...OR I SHOULD SAY--  
**TOPECHIDNA!**



WELL, IF THIS  
GUY *THINKS*  
HE'S A **GENIUS**--

-- HE BETTER  
GO BACK TO  
**PRESCHOOL!**

WHAT A  
**DUMMY!**

GOES AN' LEAVES  
HIS **FOOTPRINTS**  
ALL OVER THE PLACE!

I COULD  
FOLLOW 'IM  
IN MY SLEEP!

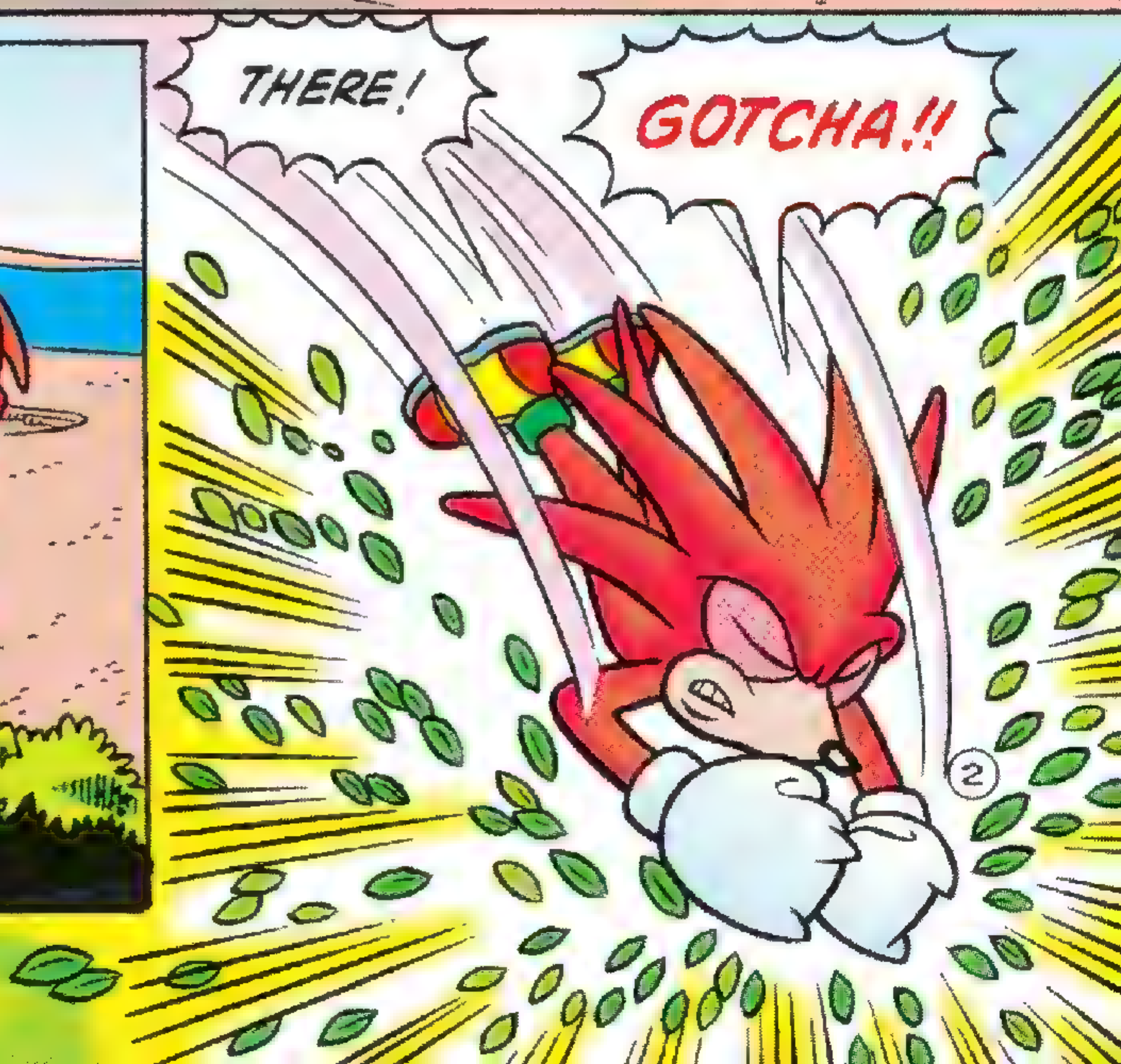


A **BLIND** PERSON  
COULD **SEE** THEY  
LEAD RIGHT TO--

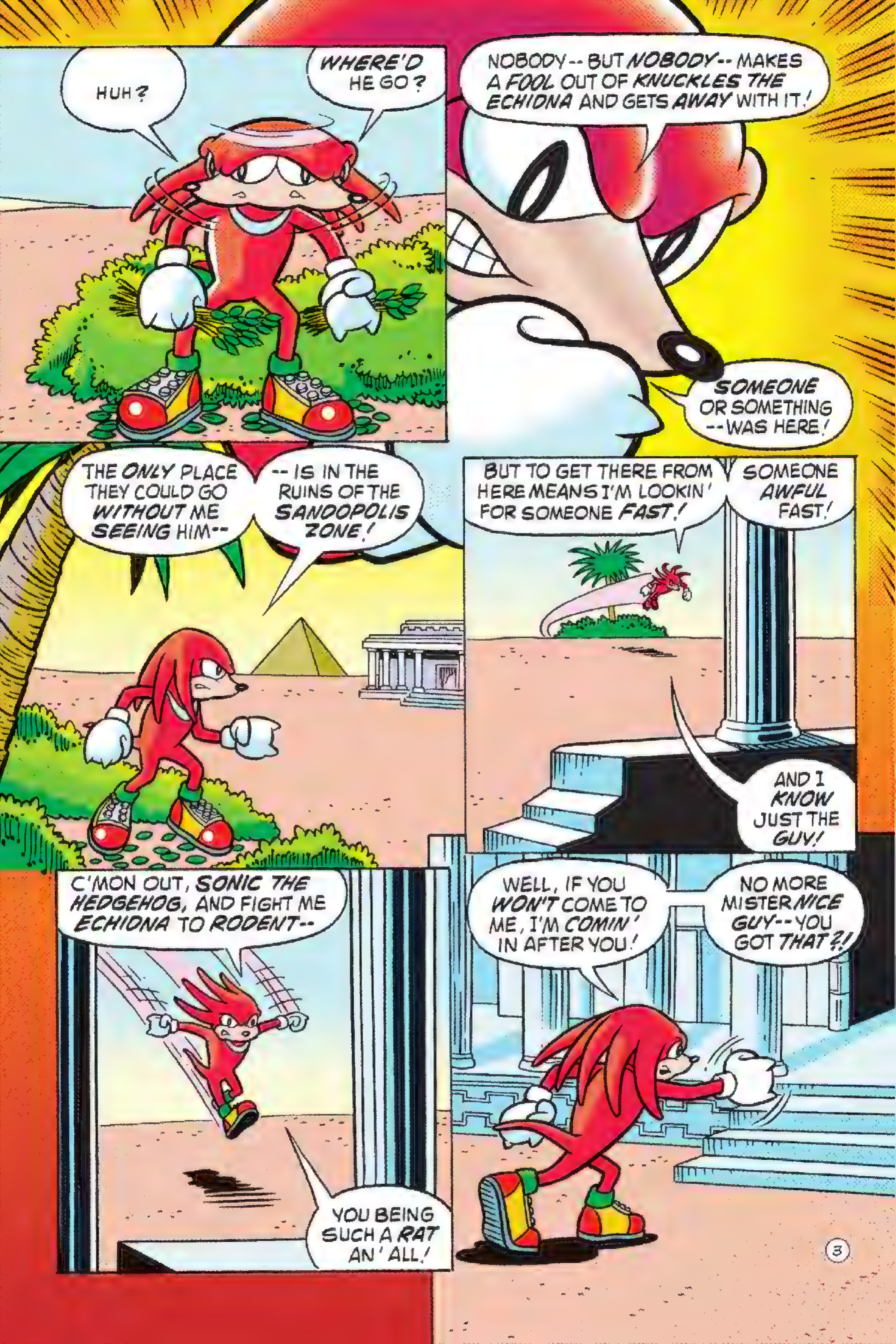


**THERE!**

**GOTCHA!!**







HUH?

WHERE'D HE GO?

NOBODY-- BUT *NOBODY*-- MAKES A FOOL OUT OF KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

SOMEONE OR SOMETHING --WAS HERE!

THE *ONLY* PLACE THEY COULD GO *WITHOUT* ME SEEING HIM--

-- IS IN THE RUINS OF THE SANDOPOLIS ZONE!

BUT TO GET THERE FROM HERE MEANS I'M LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE *FAST*!

SOMEONE *AWFUL* FAST!

AND I *KNOW* JUST THE GUY!

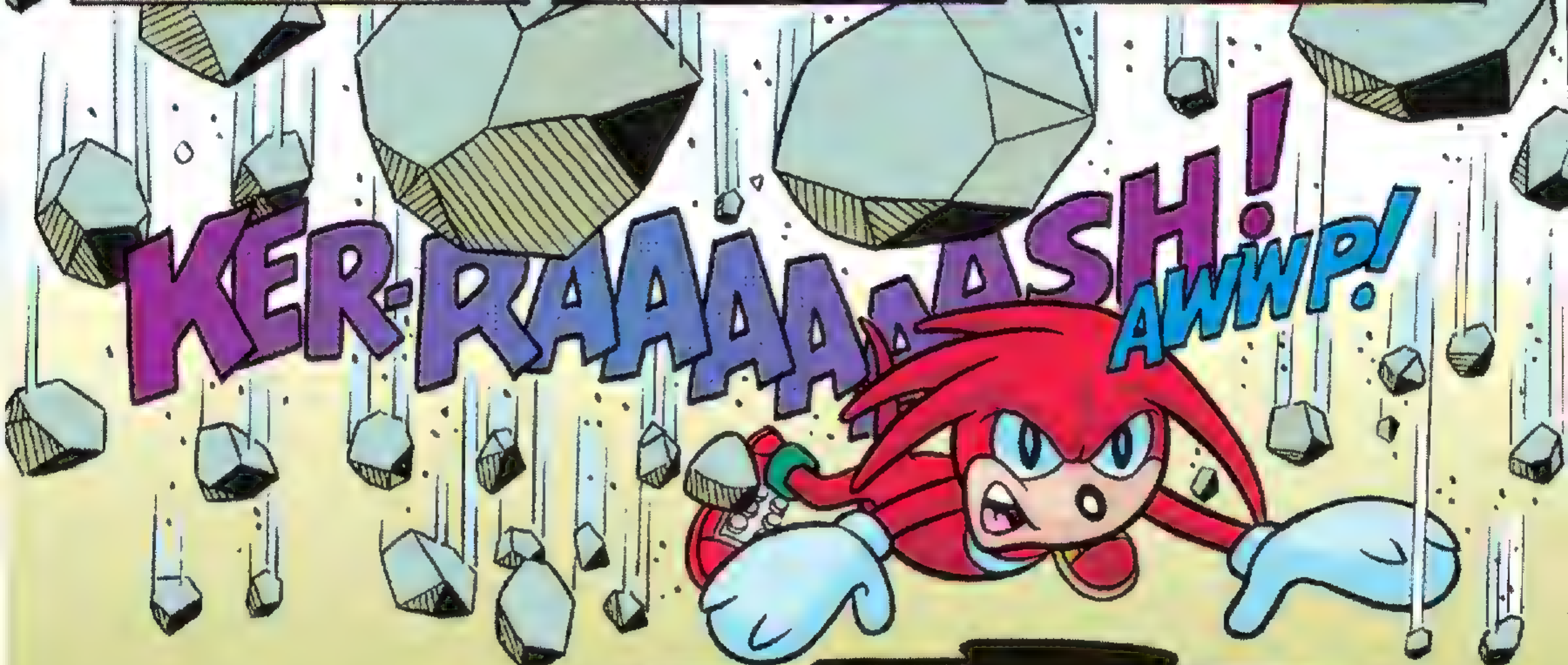
C'MON OUT, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, AND FIGHT ME ECHIDNA TO RODENT--

WELL, IF YOU *WON'T* COME TO ME, I'M *COMIN'* IN AFTER YOU!

NO MORE MISTER *NICE* GUY-- YOU GOT THAT?!

YOU BEING SUCH A RAT AN' ALL!







--YOU'LL DO THIS EASY OR  
I'LL **REALLY** BRING THE  
HOUSE **DOWN** ON YOU!

YOU CAN'T  
**HIDE** FROM ME  
FOR LONG!

DON'T YOU  
KNOW--

--I'M THE **GUARDIAN**  
OF THIS ISLAND?!

YOU **CAN'T** MESS  
AROUND WHILE I'M  
ON WATCH!

**YE-OW!**

WHERE'D THAT  
COME FROM?!

SOMETHIN'  
FUNNY'S **GOIN'**  
ON HERE!!

WELL,  
ISN'T **THIS**  
SPECIAL!

THE **WALL**  
REVEALS IT'S  
A **DOOR**!

THE  
PROBLEM  
**IS--**  
HOW COME  
I'M **NOT**  
LAUGHIN'?

**THUD!**

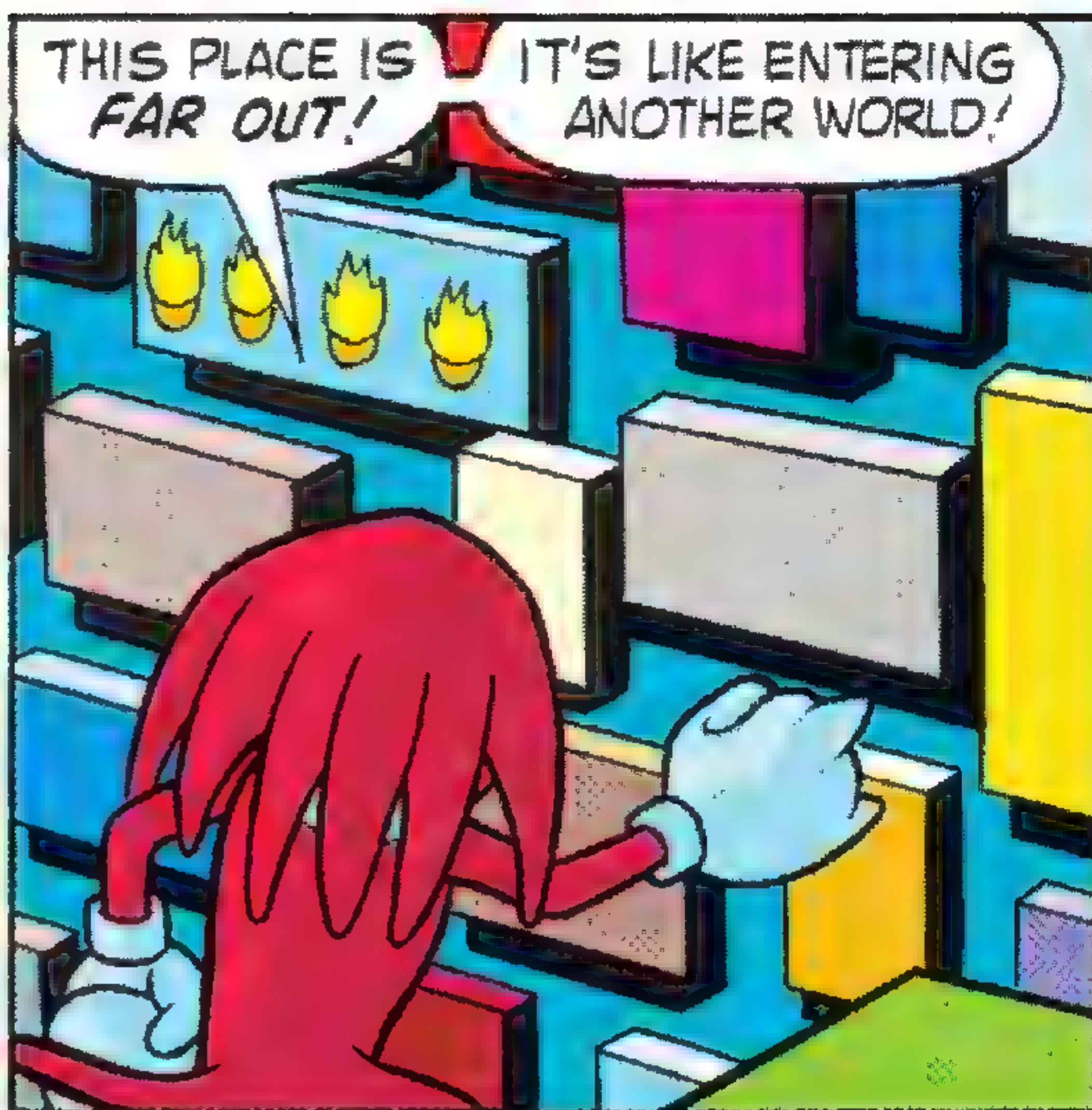
SINCE THERE'S  
**NO WAY ANYONE**  
COULD'VE GOTTEN  
**PAST** ME--





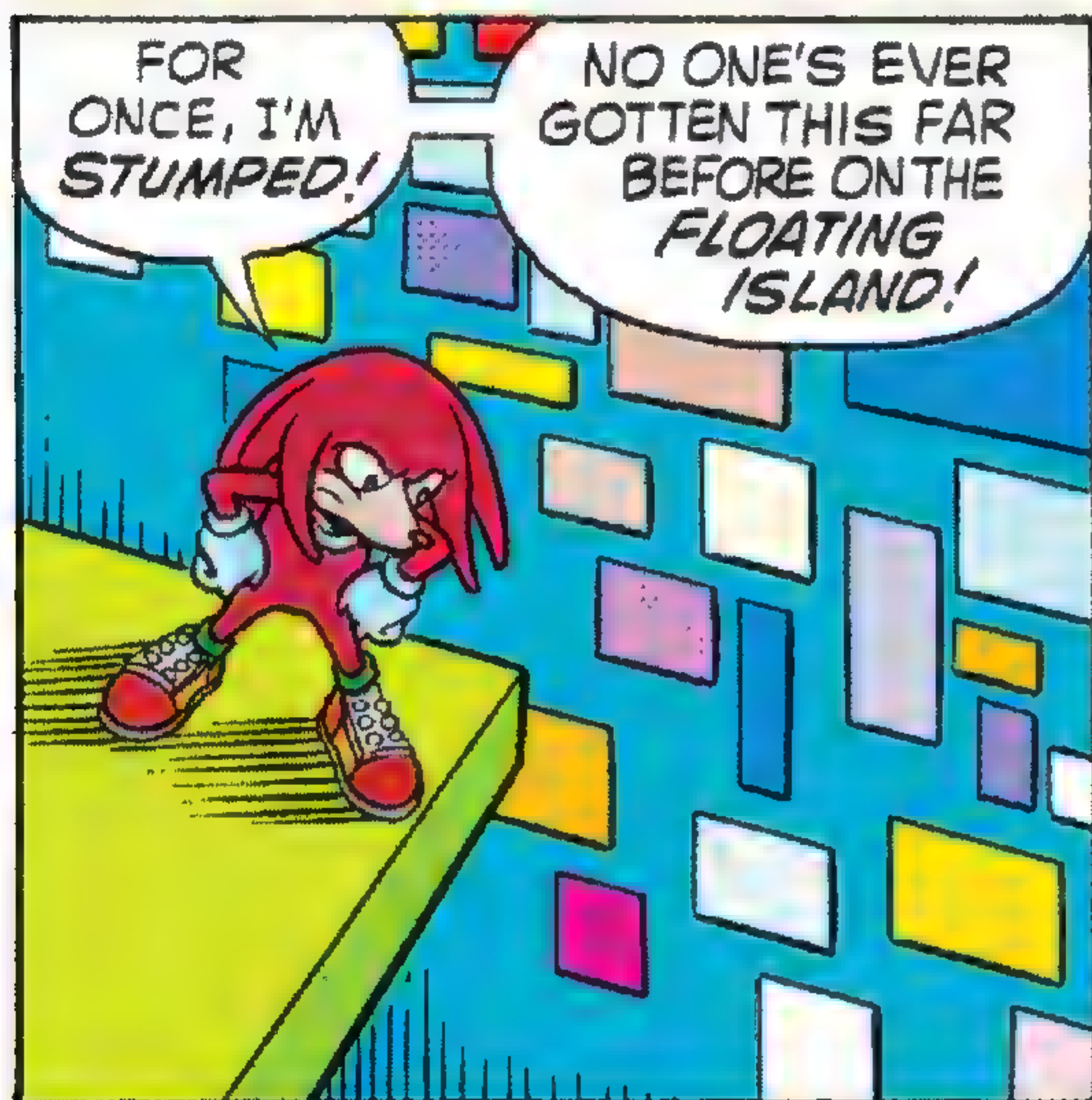
--IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS MY **BEST** OPTION!

I JUST WISH **FATHER** HAD TAUGHT ME **MORE** ABOUT THIS PLACE!



THIS PLACE IS **FAR OUT!**

IT'S LIKE ENTERING ANOTHER WORLD!



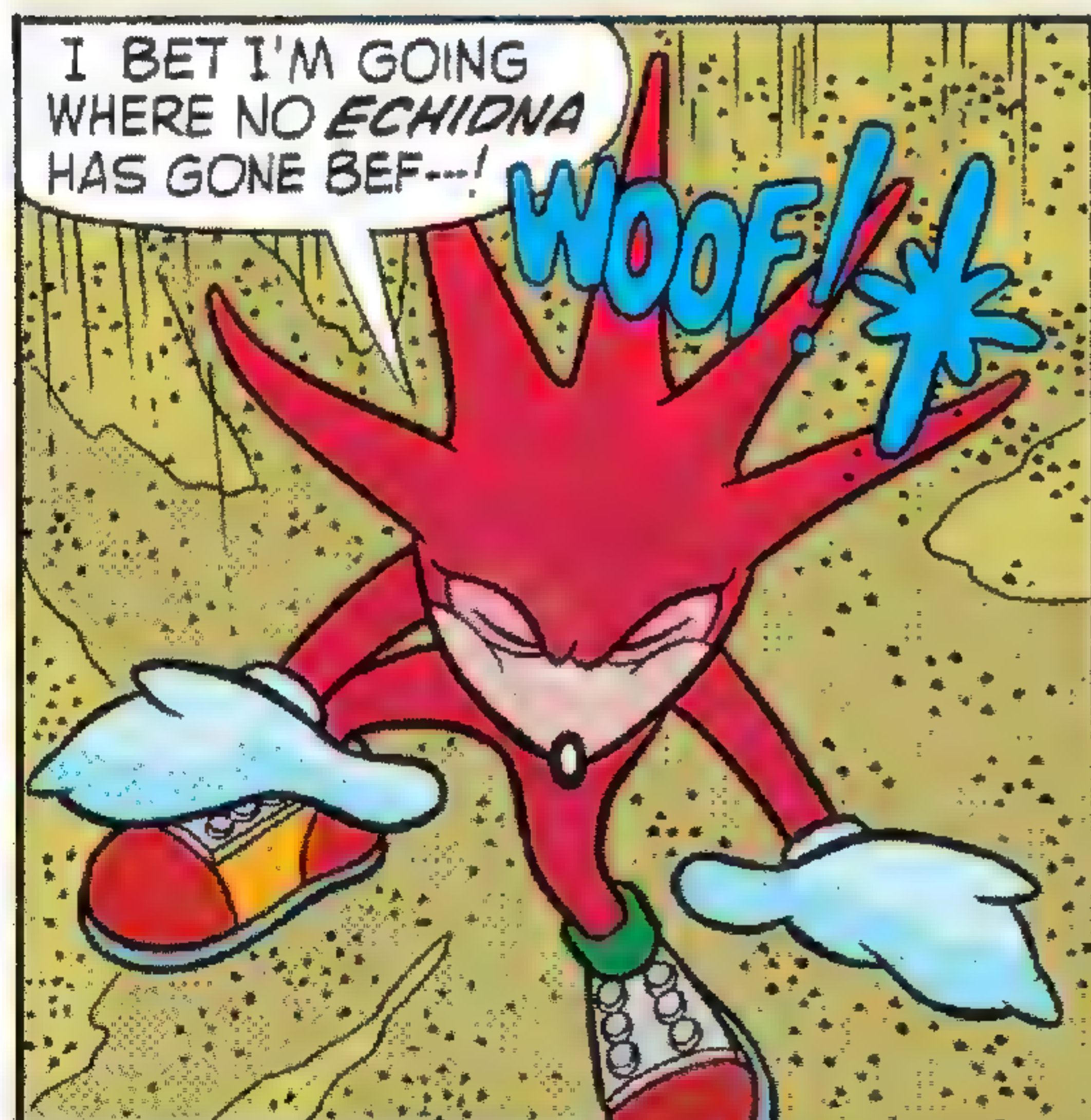
FOR ONCE, I'M **STUMPED!**

NO ONE'S EVER GOTTEN THIS FAR BEFORE ON THE **FLOATING ISLAND!**



I MAY KNOW **MORE** ABOUT THE ISLAND THAN **ANYONE** ELSE--

--BUT I GUESS DAD **FORGOT** TO FILL ME IN ON THIS **SECRET PLACE!**



I BET I'M GOING WHERE NO **ECHIDNA** HAS GONE BEF--!

**WOOF!**

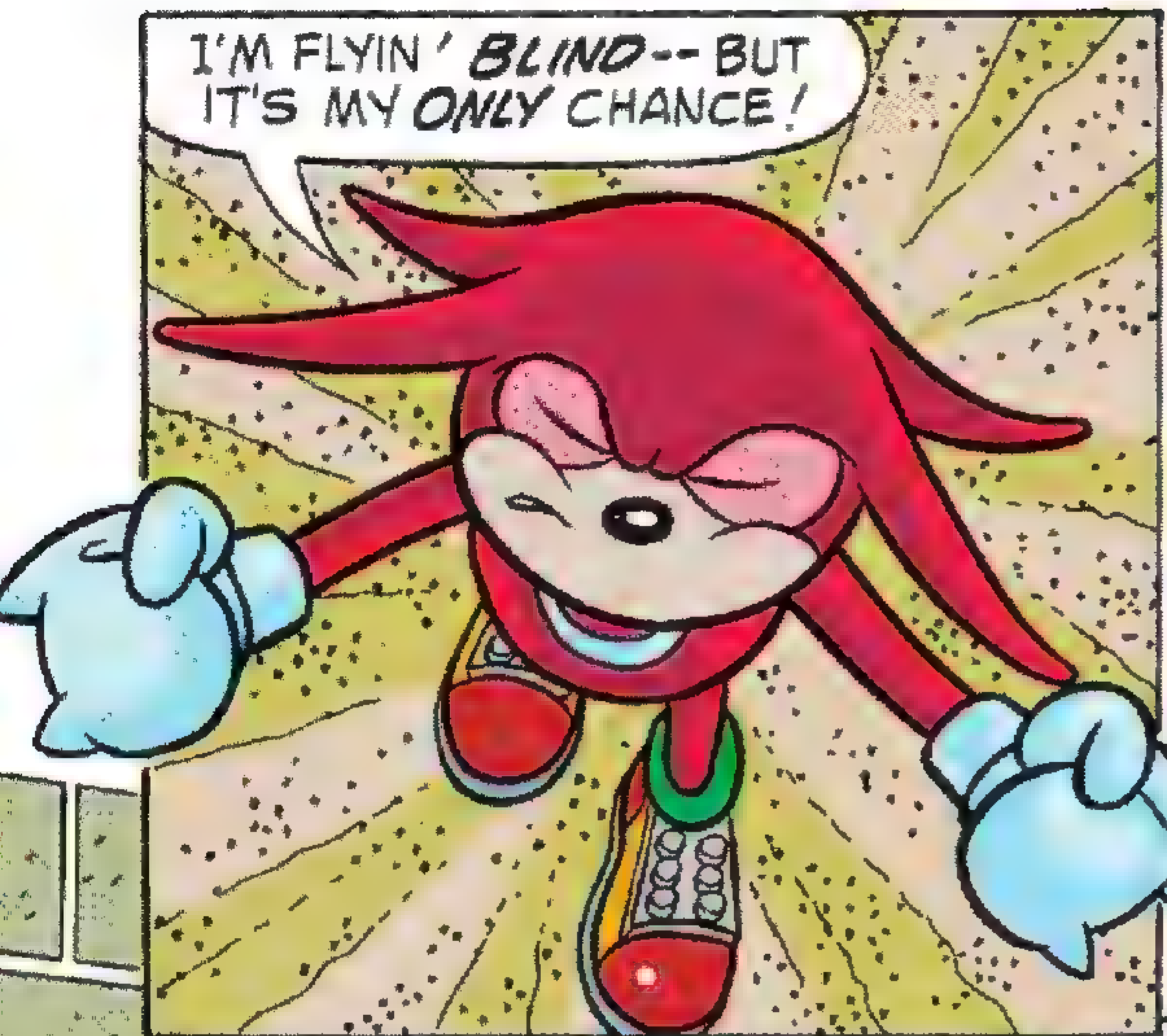


**SANDFALL!**

**PTUI!!**

**BETTER ACT FAST OR THIS KID IS GOING DOWN FOR THE COUNT!**





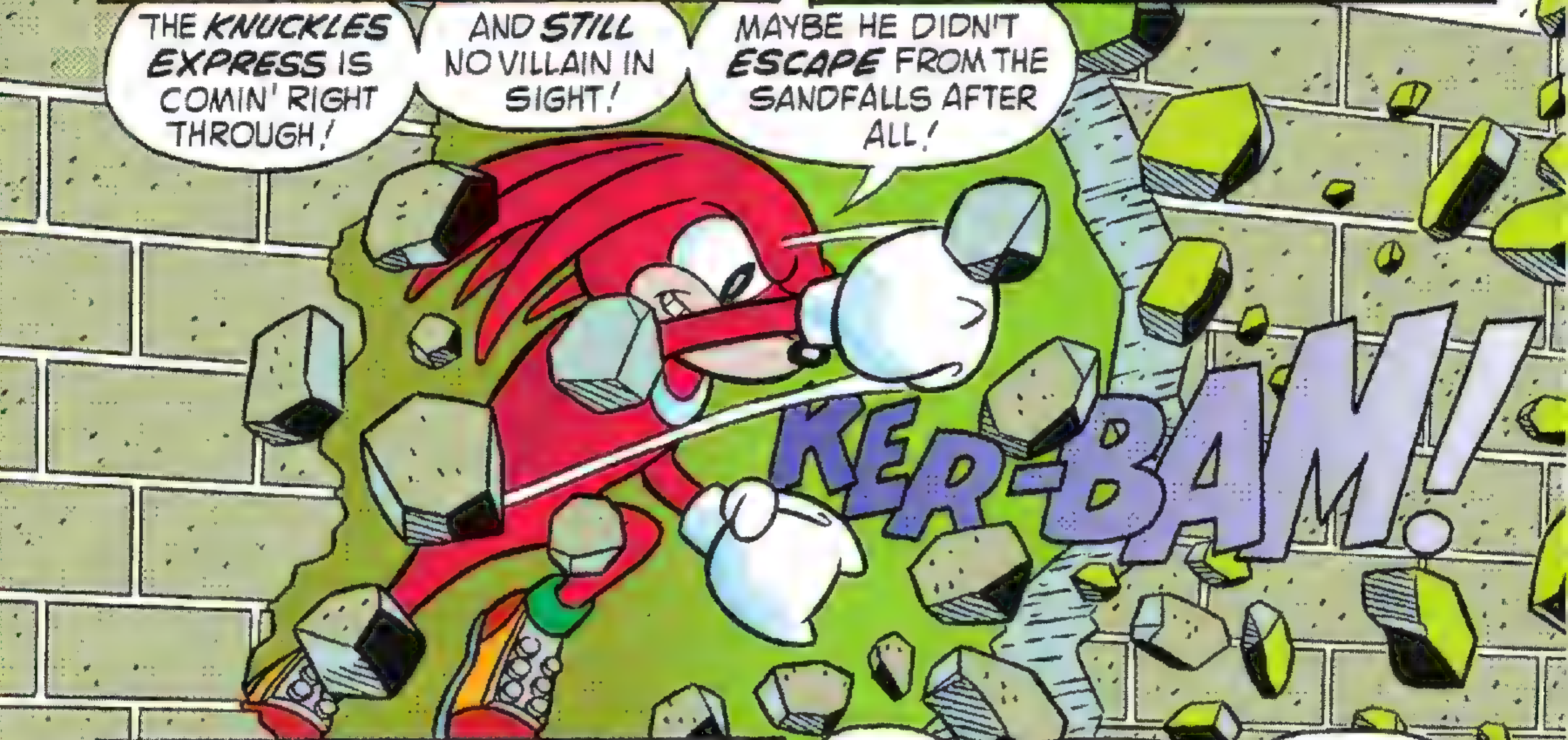
I'M FLYIN' *BLIND*-- BUT IT'S MY *ONLY* CHANCE!



I *DID* IT!

*DIDN'T* GET ME FAR THOUGH!

*ANOTHER* WALL!

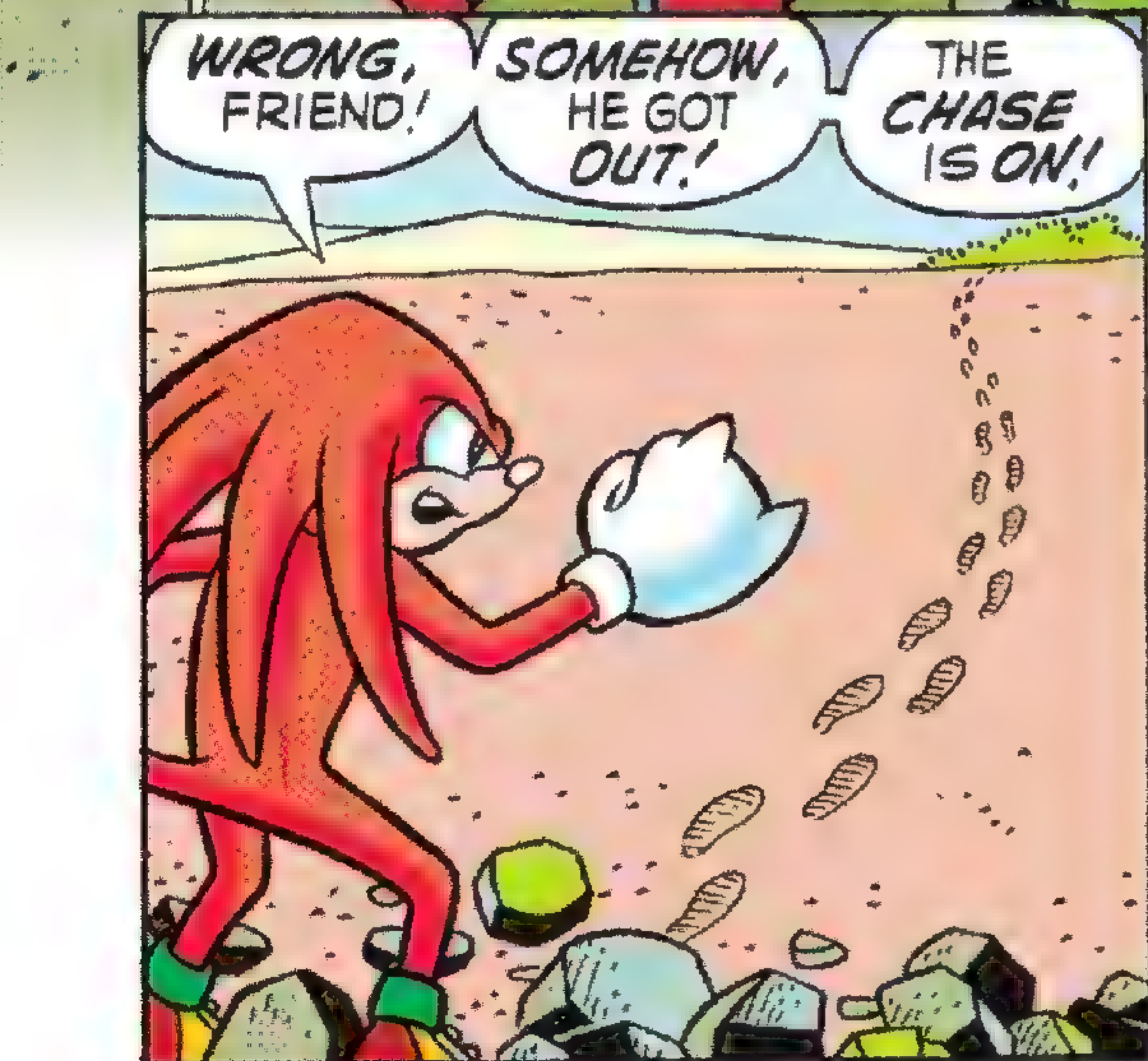


THE *KNUCKLES EXPRESS* IS COMIN' RIGHT THROUGH!

AND *STILL* NO VILLAIN IN SIGHT!

MAYBE HE *DIDN'T* *ESCAPE* FROM THE SANDFALLS AFTER ALL!

**KER-BAM!**



*WRONG*, FRIEND!

*SOMEHOW*, HE GOT OUT!

THE *CHASE* IS ON!

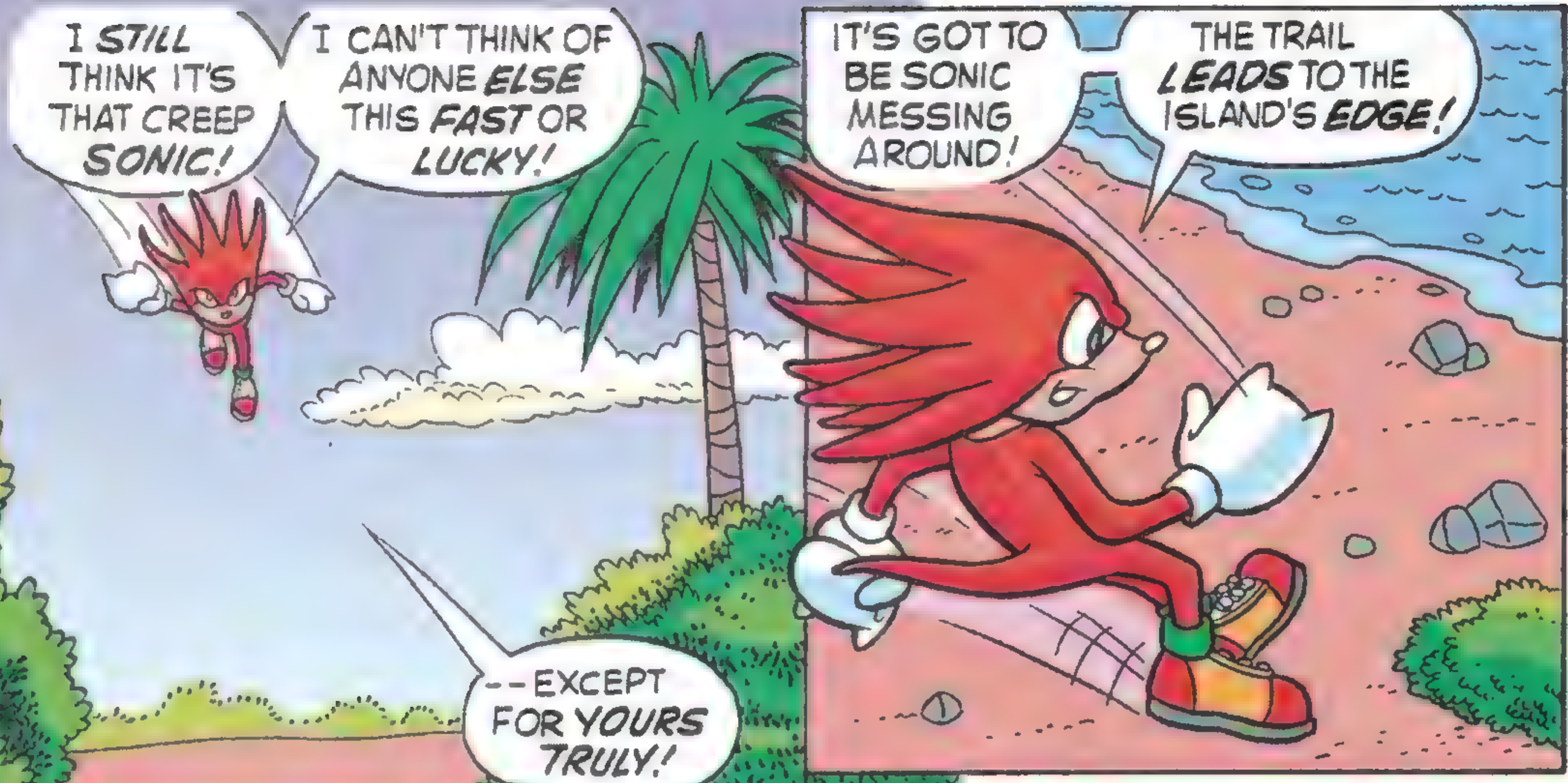


ONLY NOW--

IT'S *PERSONAL*!

I'M GOING TO GET YOU!





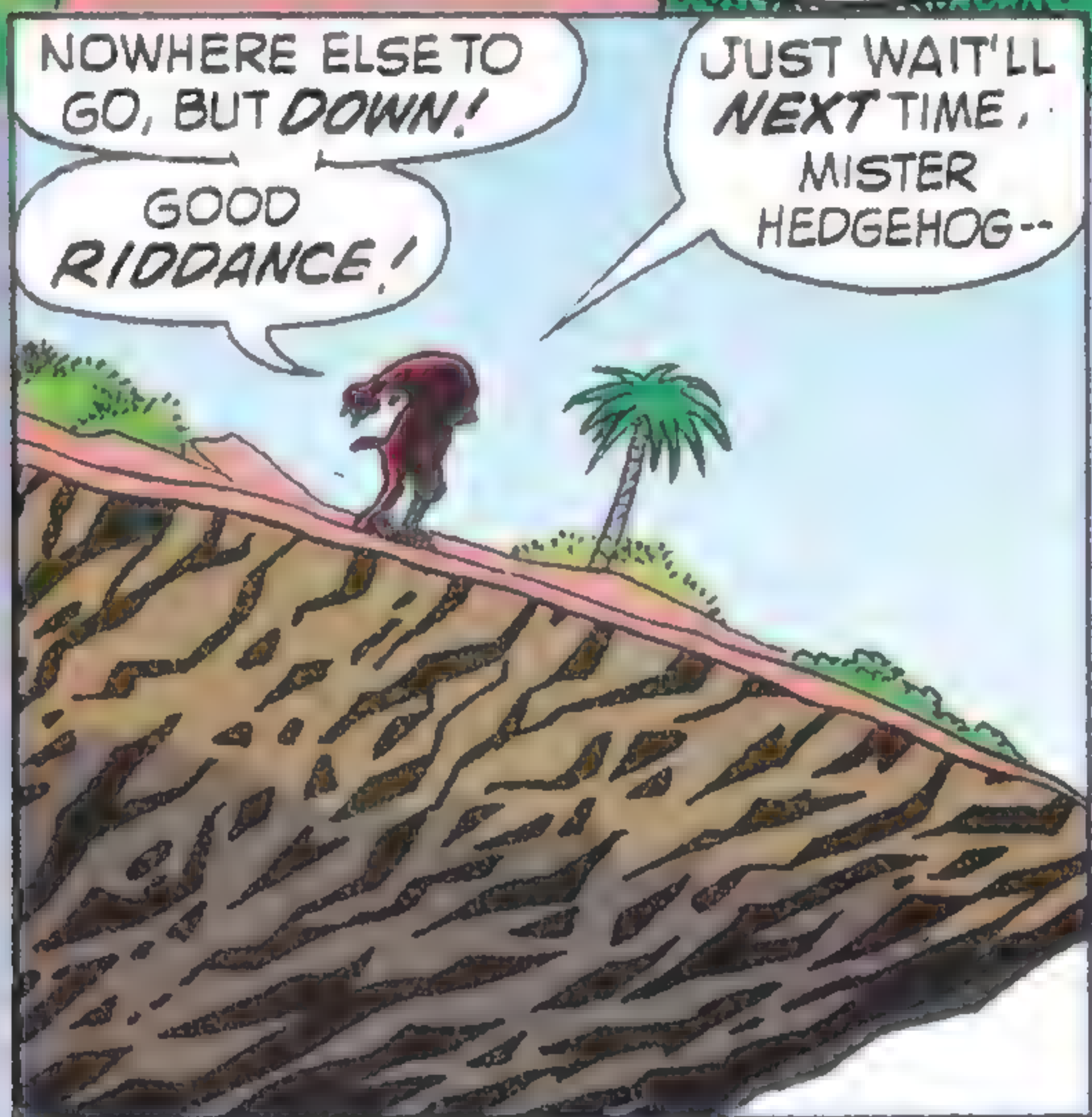
I *STILL* THINK IT'S THAT CREEP SONIC!

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE *ELSE* THIS *FAST* OR *LUCKY*!

IT'S GOT TO BE SONIC MESSING AROUND!

THE TRAIL *LEADS* TO THE ISLAND'S *EDGE*!

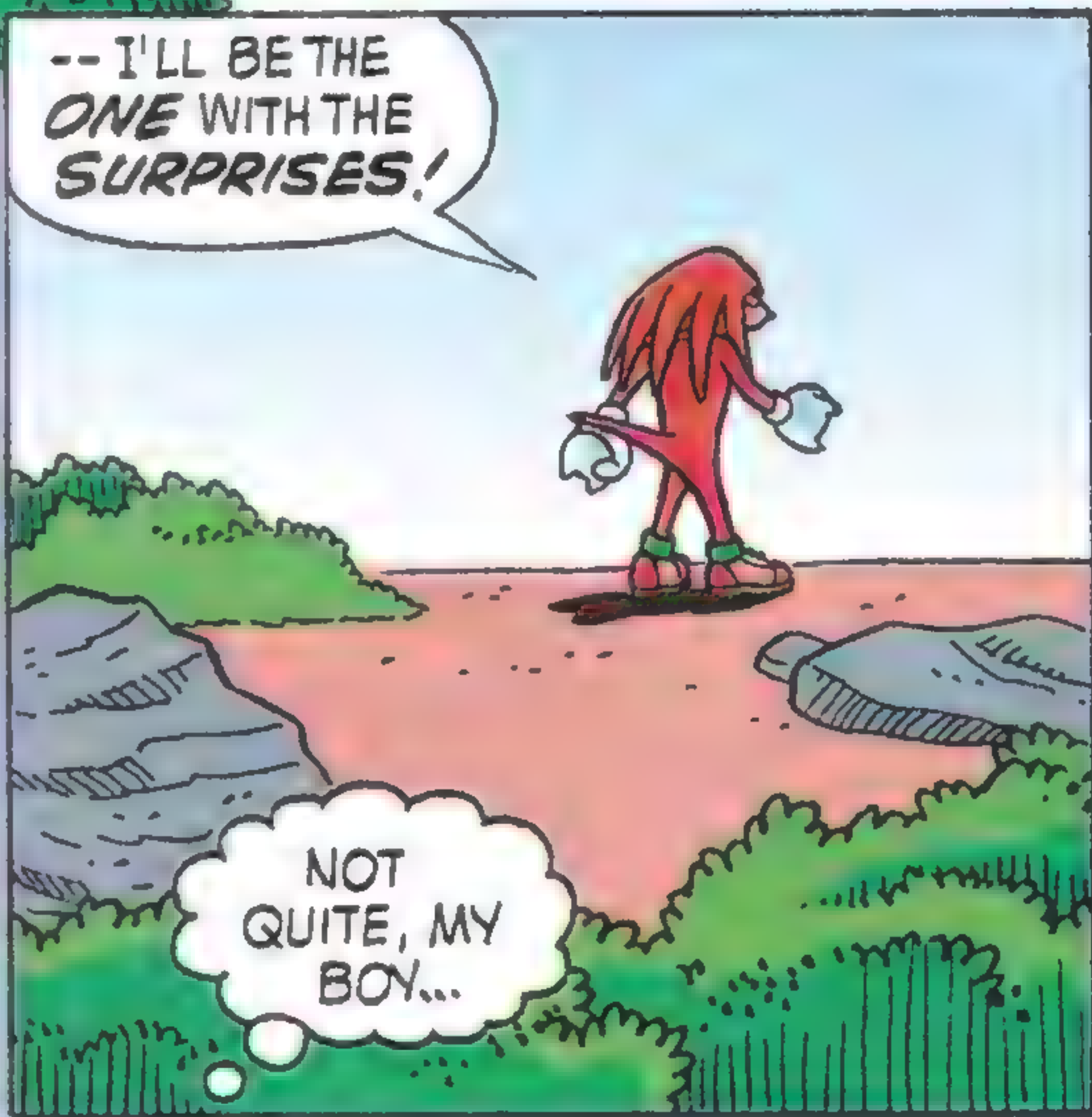
-- EXCEPT FOR YOURS *TRULY*!



NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, BUT *DOWN*!

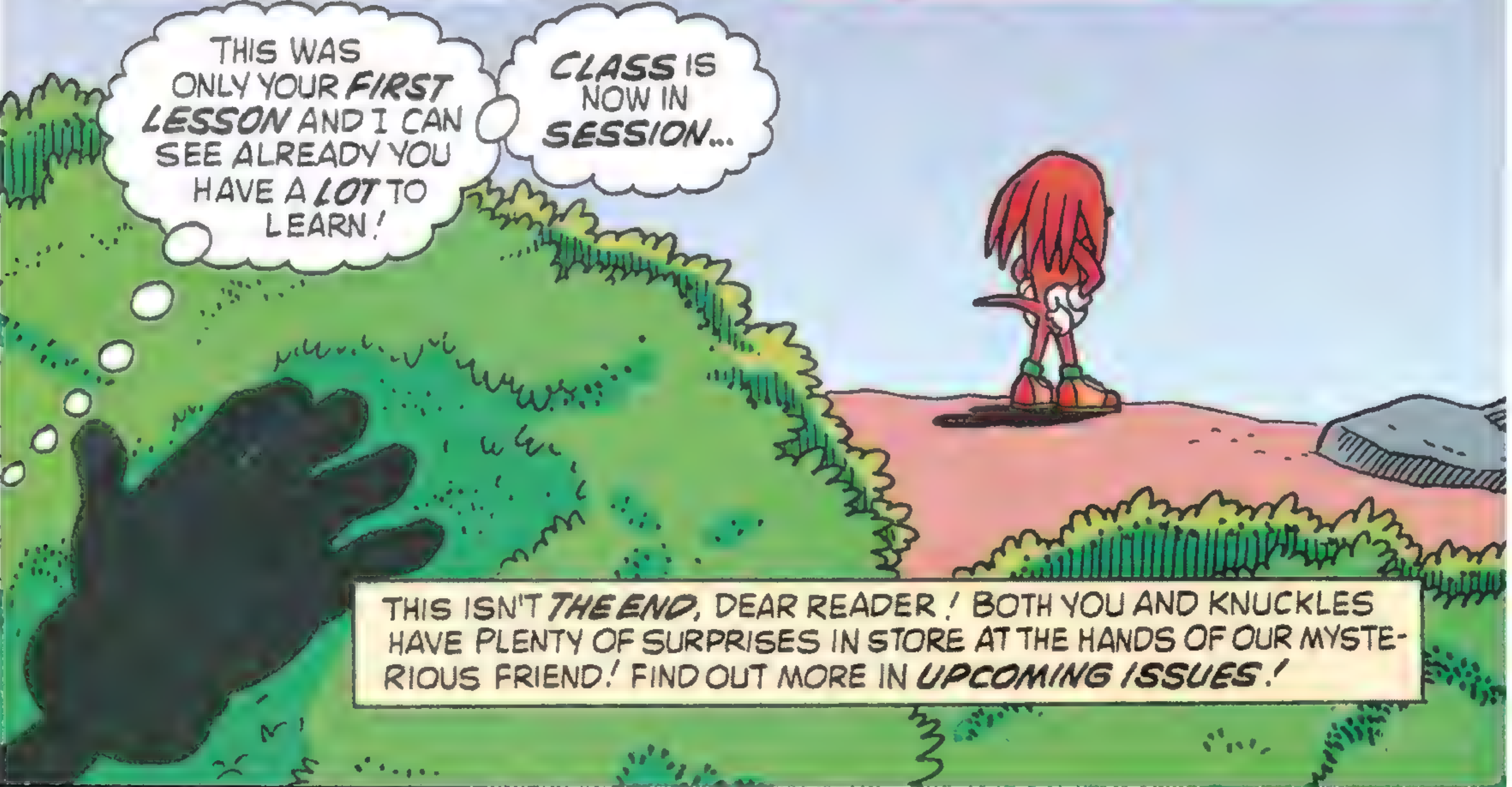
GOOD *RIDDANCE*!

JUST WAIT'LL *NEXT* TIME, MISTER HEDGEHOG--



-- I'LL BE THE *ONE* WITH THE *SURPRISES*!

NOT QUITE, MY BOY...



THIS WAS ONLY YOUR *FIRST LESSON* AND I CAN SEE ALREADY YOU HAVE A *LOT* TO LEARN!

*CLASS* IS NOW IN *SESSION*...

THIS ISN'T *THE END*, DEAR READER! BOTH YOU AND KNUCKLES HAVE PLENTY OF SURPRISES IN STORE AT THE HANDS OF OUR MYSTEROUS FRIEND! FIND OUT MORE IN *UPCOMING ISSUES*!



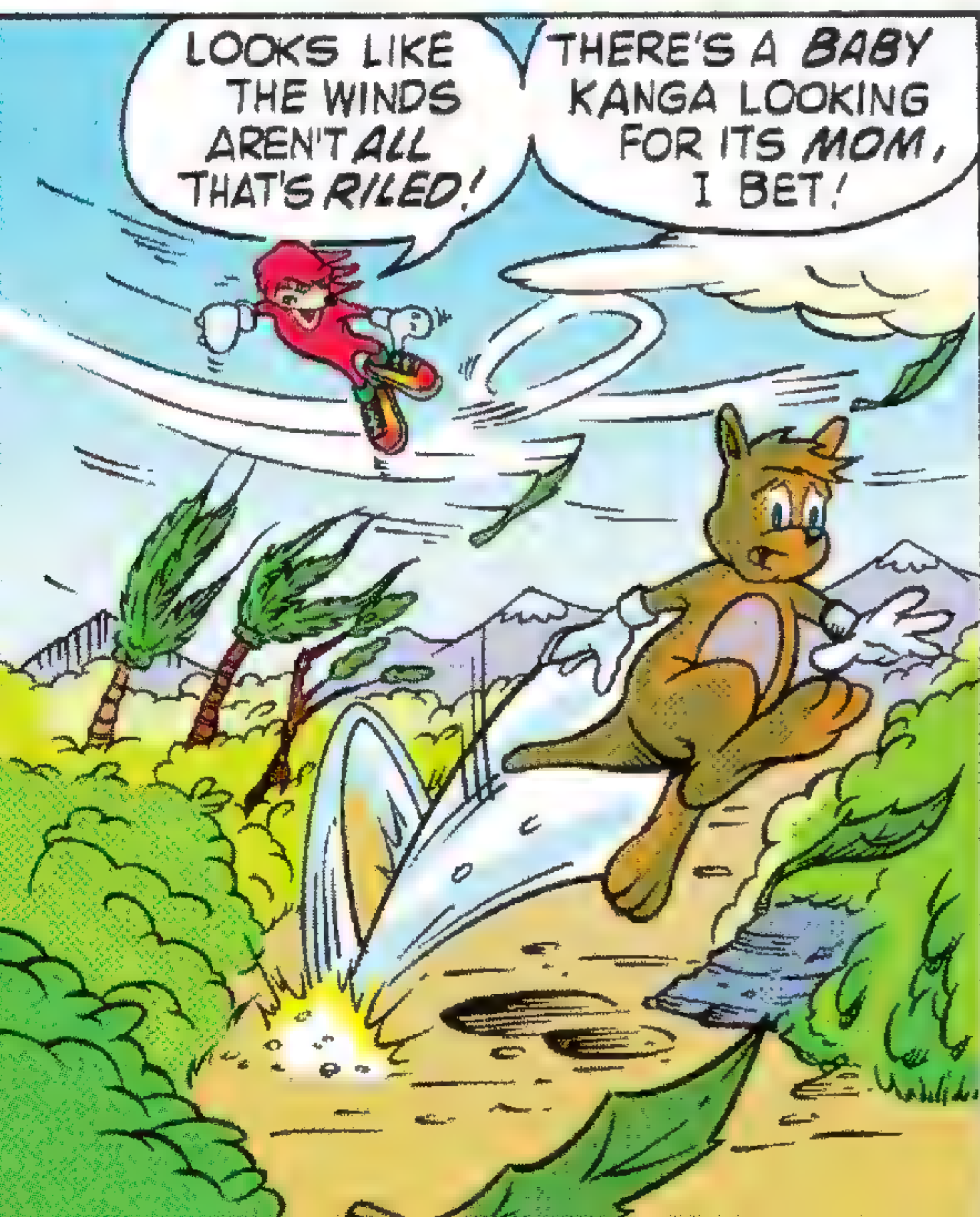
SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS  
**KNUCKLES**™

IN  
**LORD OF THE  
FLOATING ISLAND**



THE WINDS  
ARE REALLY  
HOWLING  
TODAY!

ALL OF A SUDDEN,  
I'M FLYING THE  
NOT-SO-FRIENDLY  
SKIES!



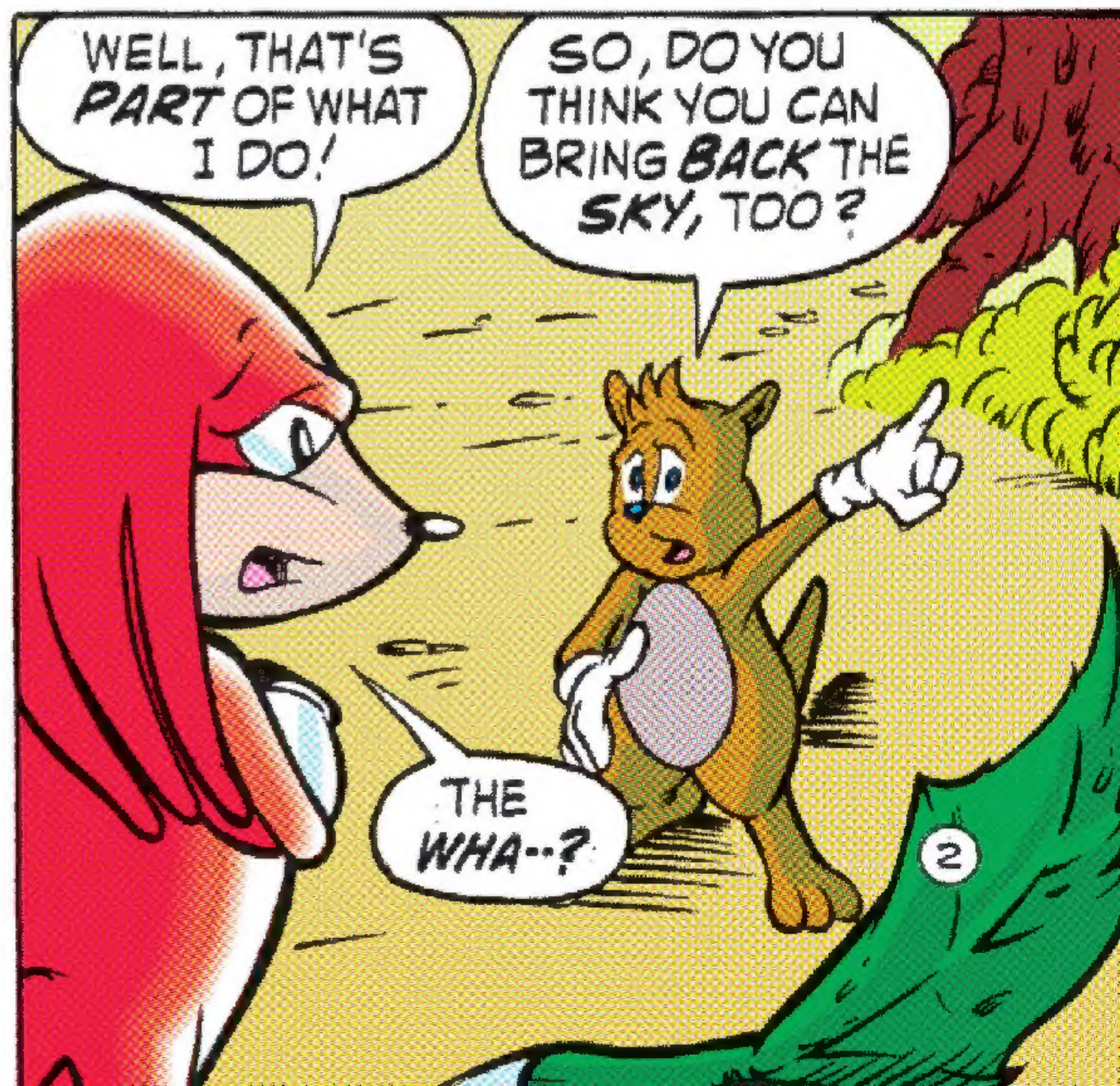
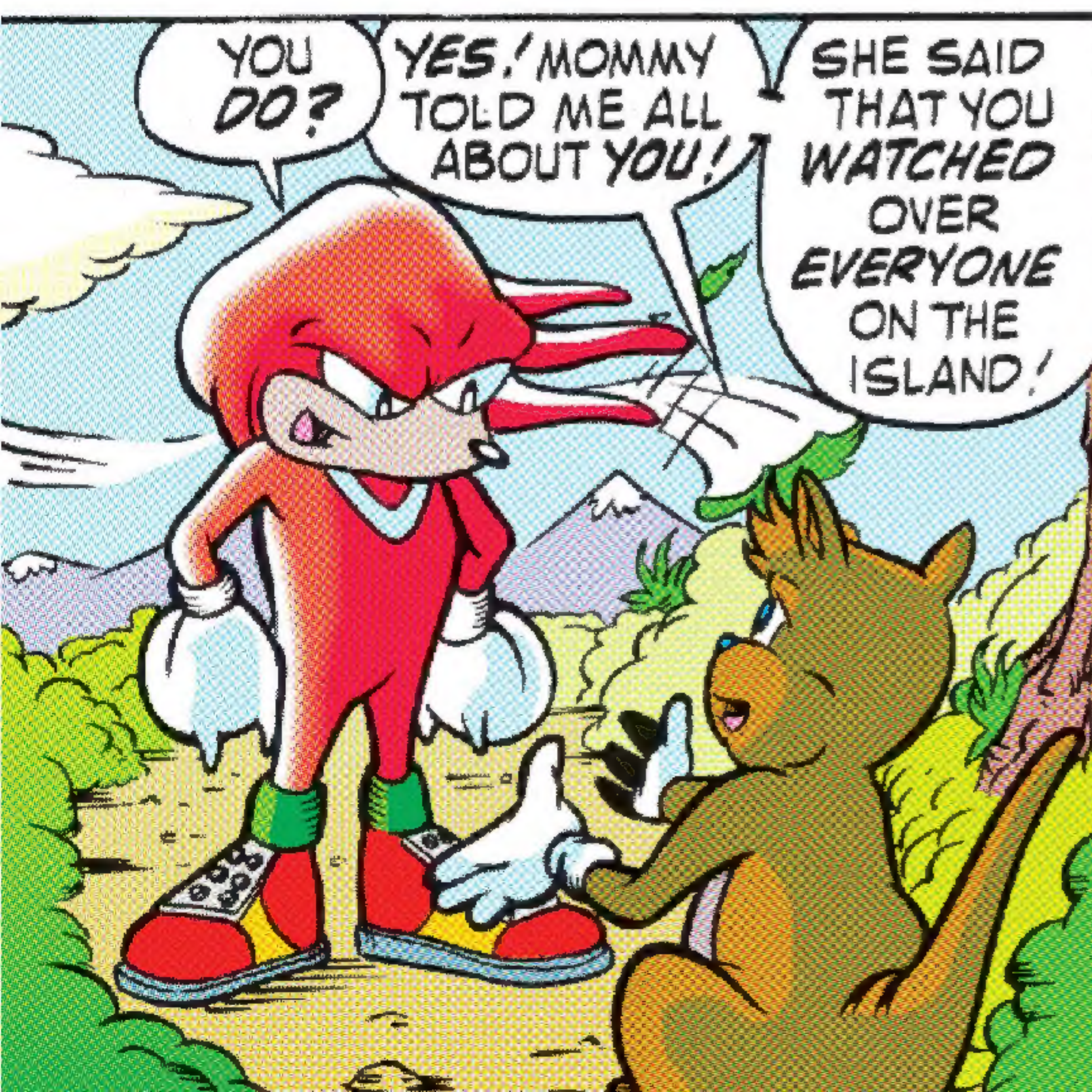
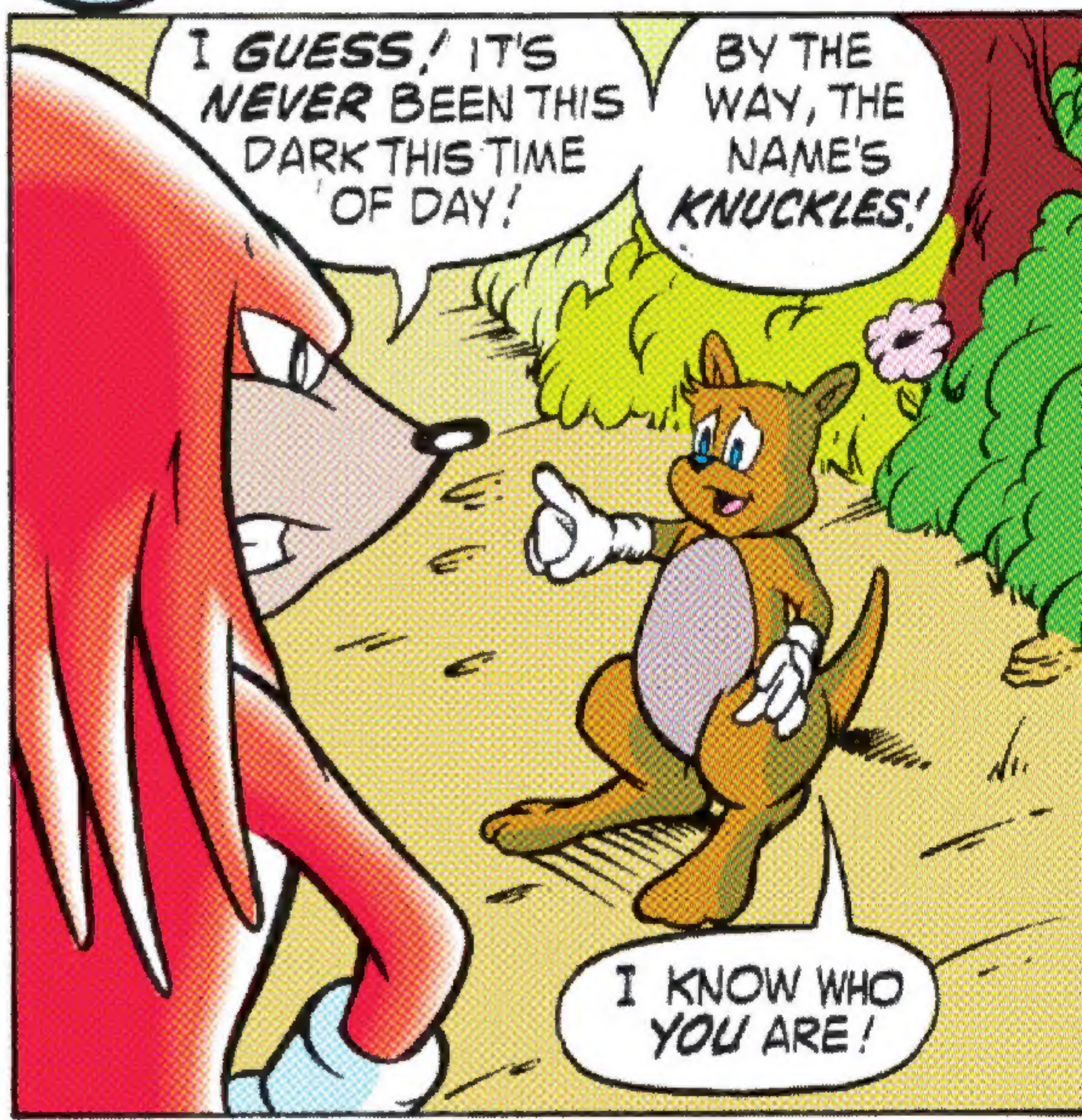
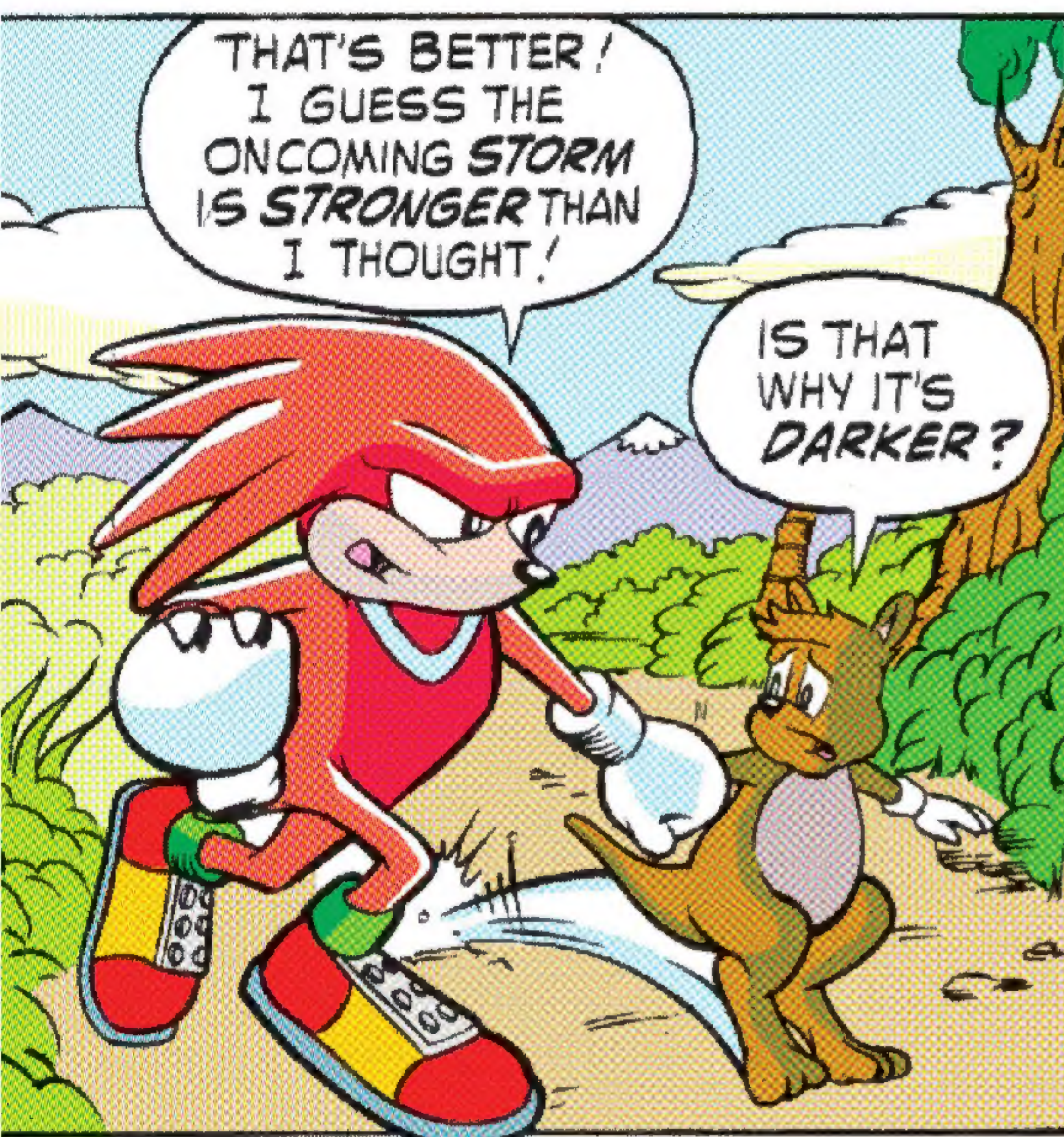
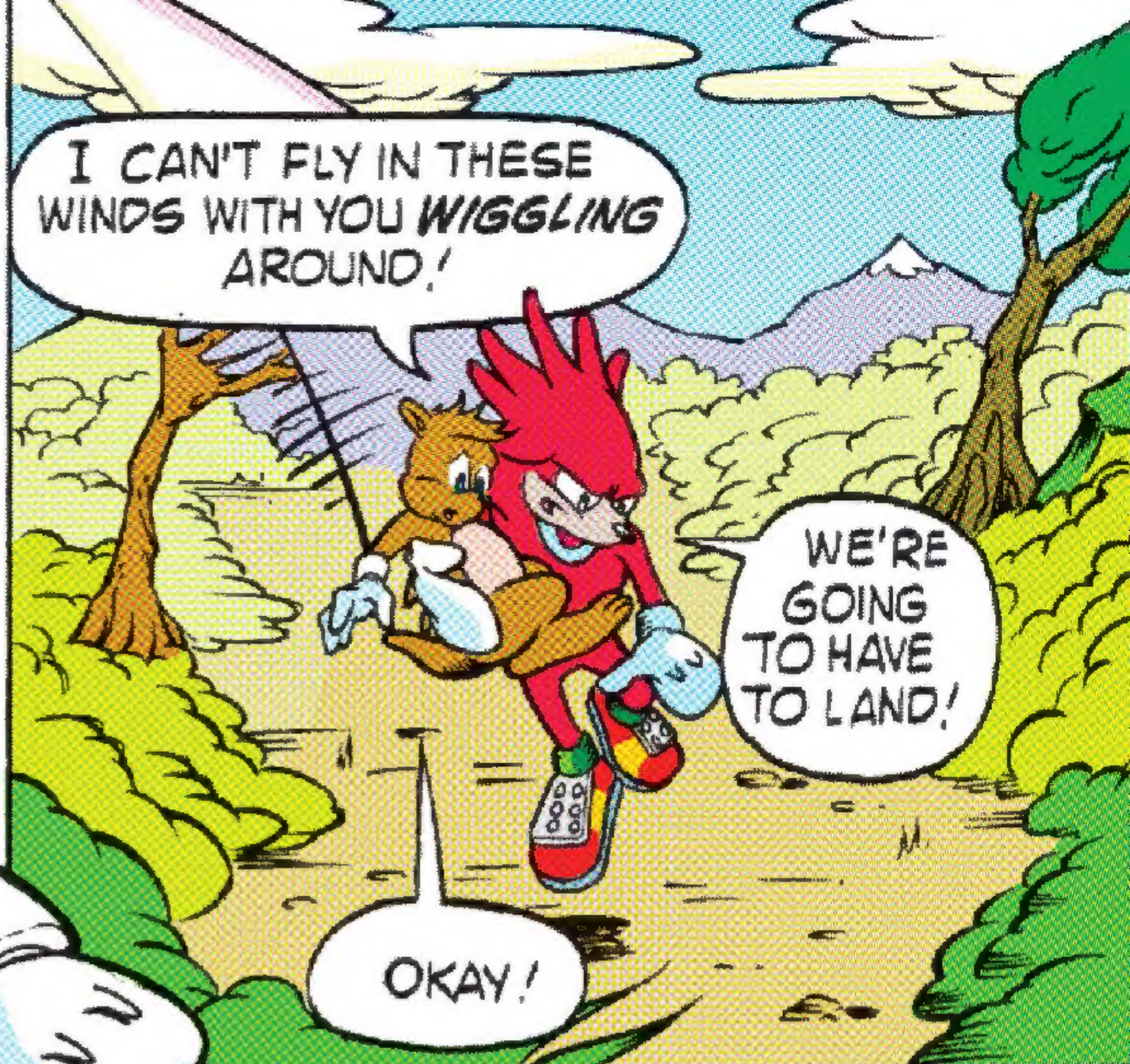
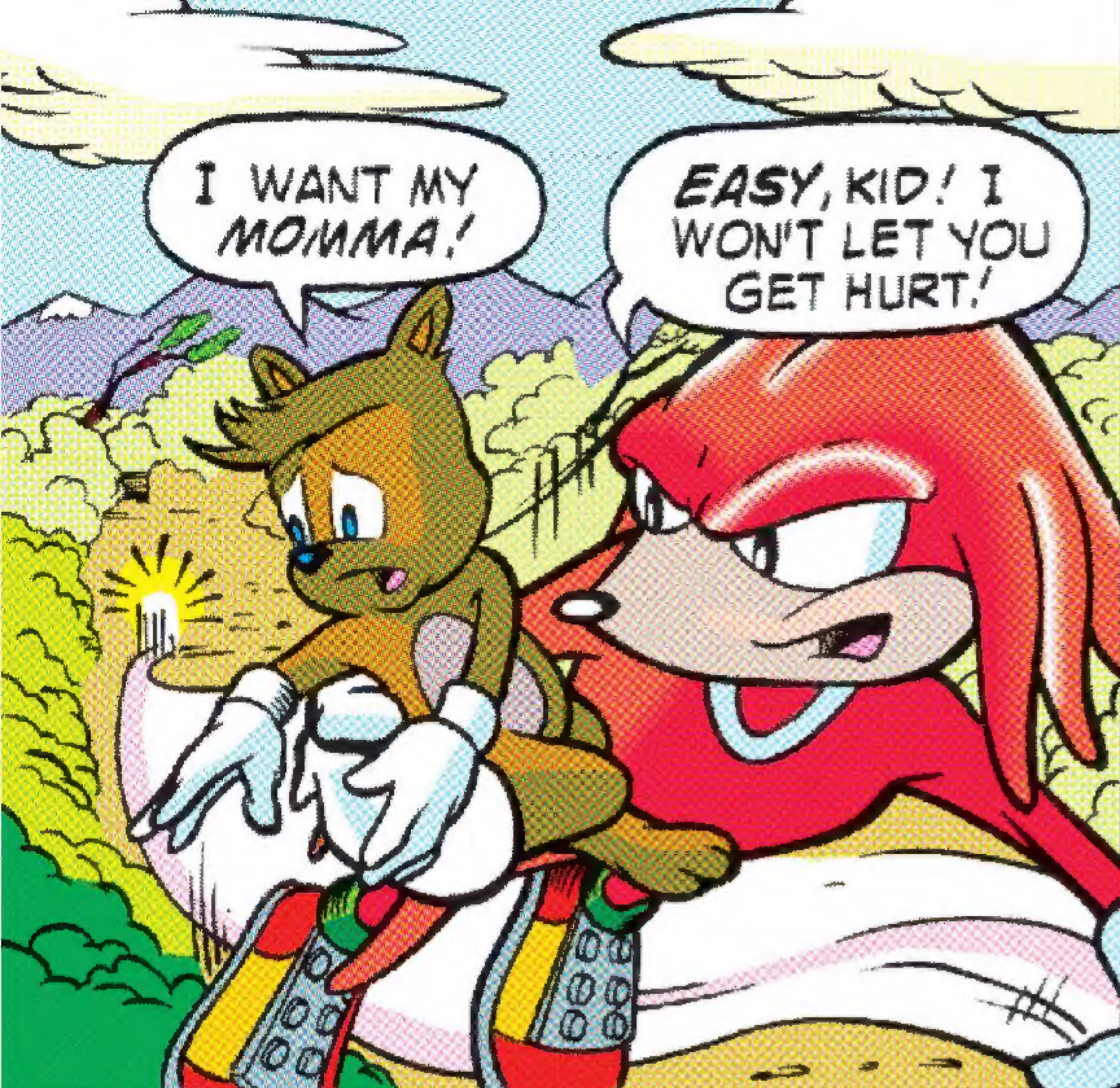
LOOKS LIKE  
THE WINDS  
AREN'T ALL  
THAT'S RILED!

THERE'S A *BABY*  
KANGA LOOKING  
FOR ITS *MOM*,  
I BET!

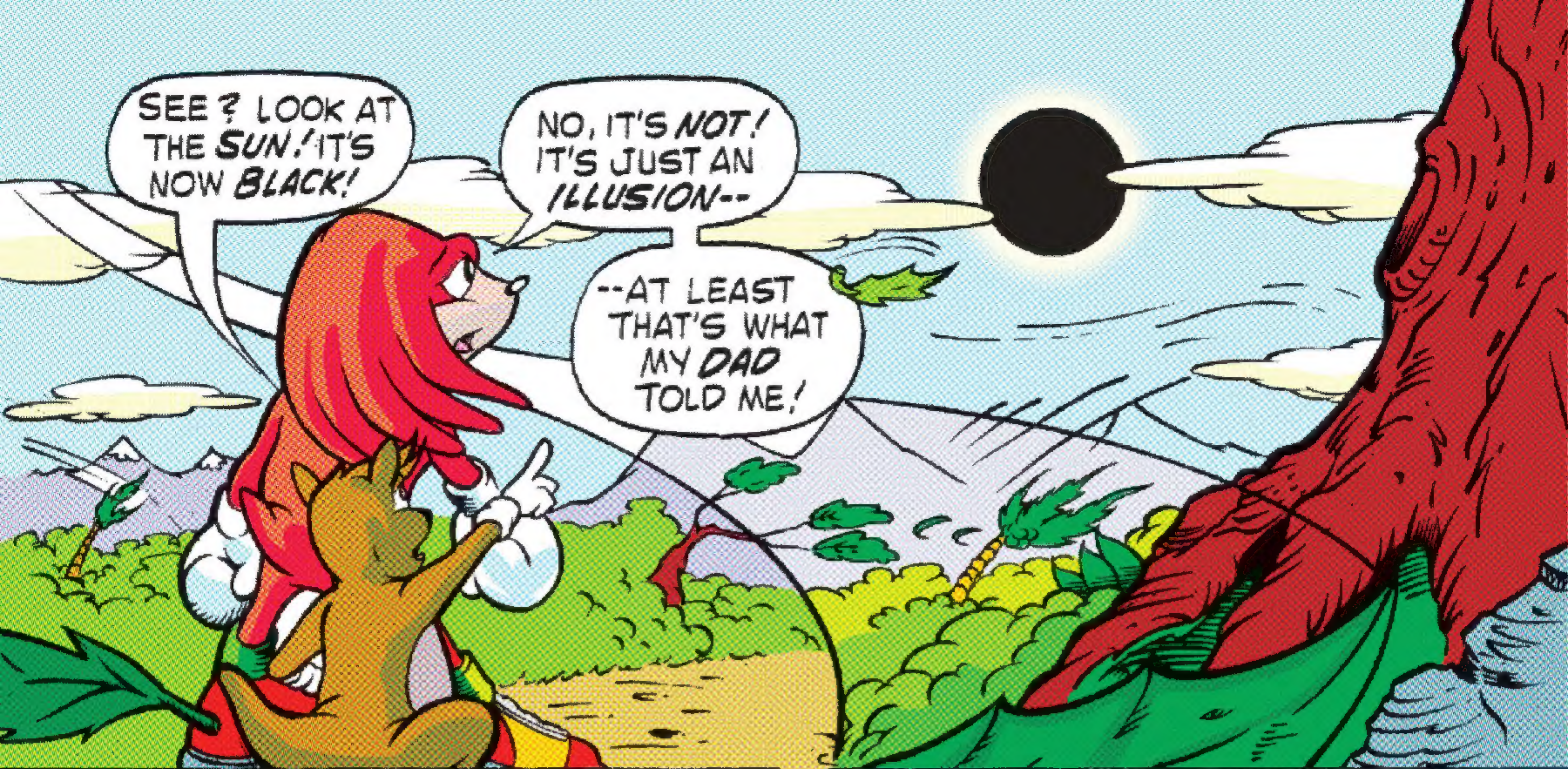


HOLD ON, KID!  
*KNUCKLES* IS COMING  
TO HELP OUT!





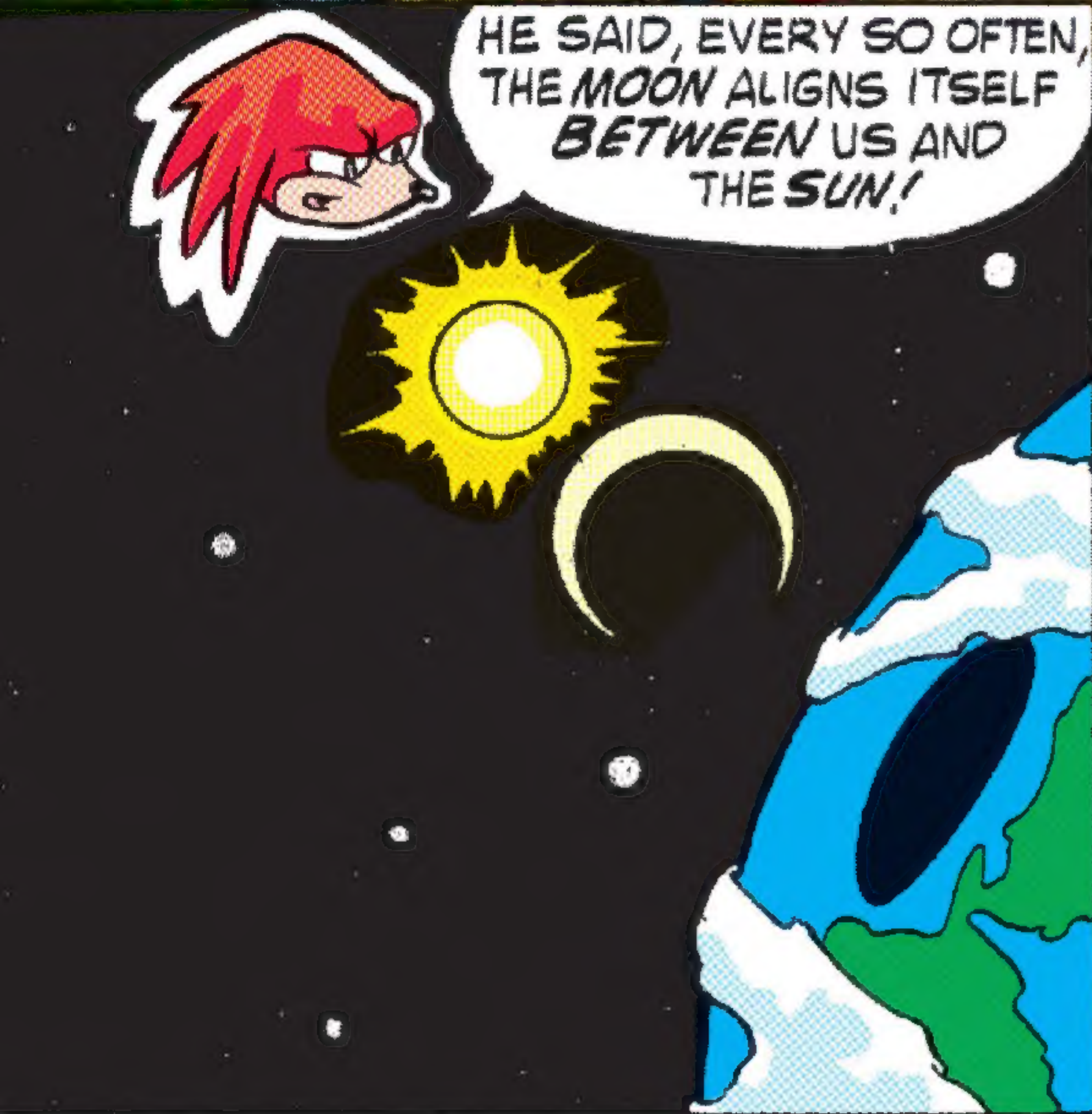




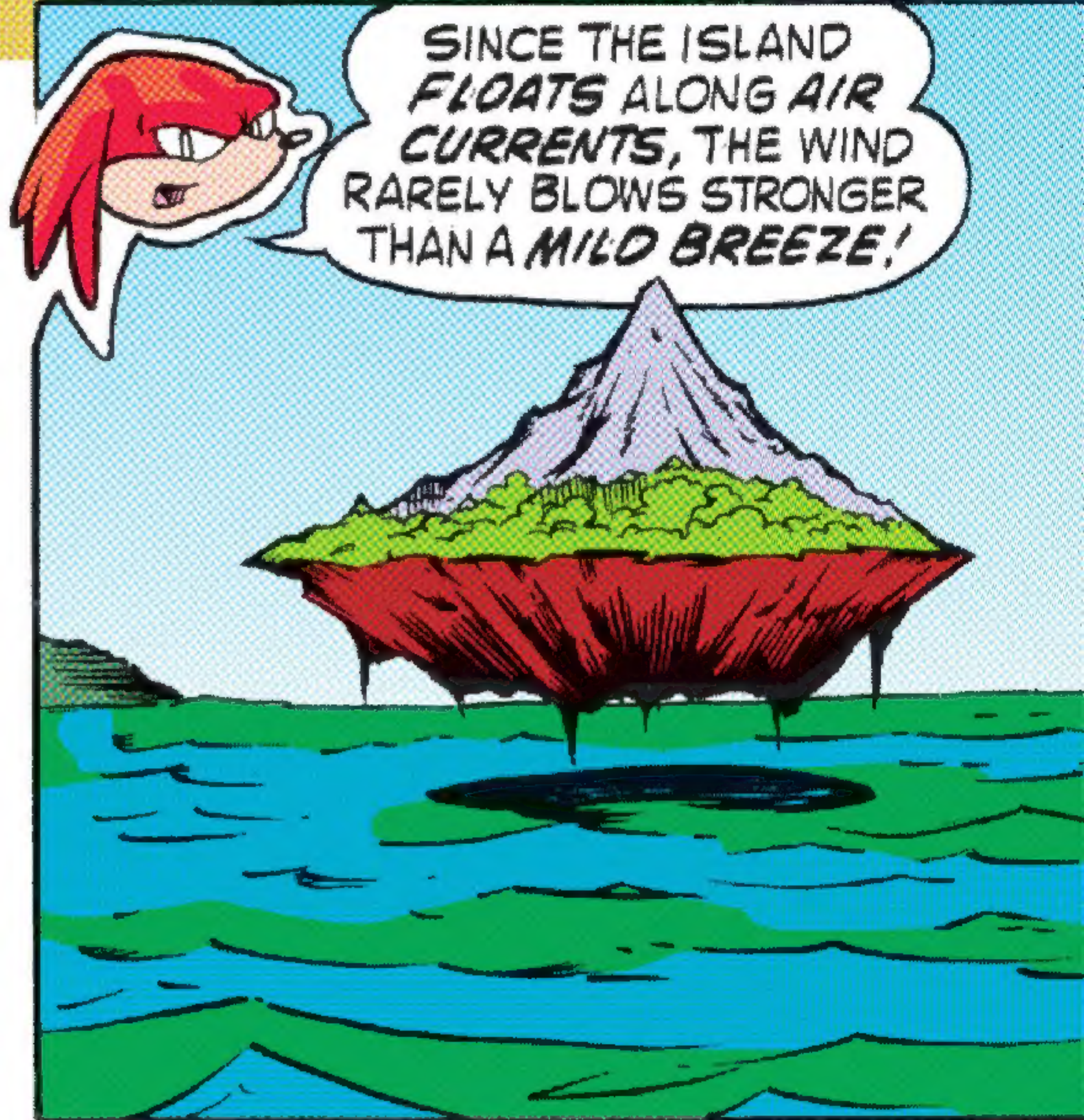
SEE ? LOOK AT THE **SUN**! IT'S NOW **BLACK**!

NO, IT'S **NOT**! IT'S JUST AN **ILLUSION**--

--AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT MY **DAD** TOLD ME!



HE SAID, EVERY SO OFTEN, THE **MOON** ALIGNS ITSELF **BETWEEN** US AND THE **SUN**!



SINCE THE ISLAND **FLOATS** ALONG **AIR CURRENTS**, THE WIND RARELY BLOWS STRONGER THAN A **MILD BREEZE**!

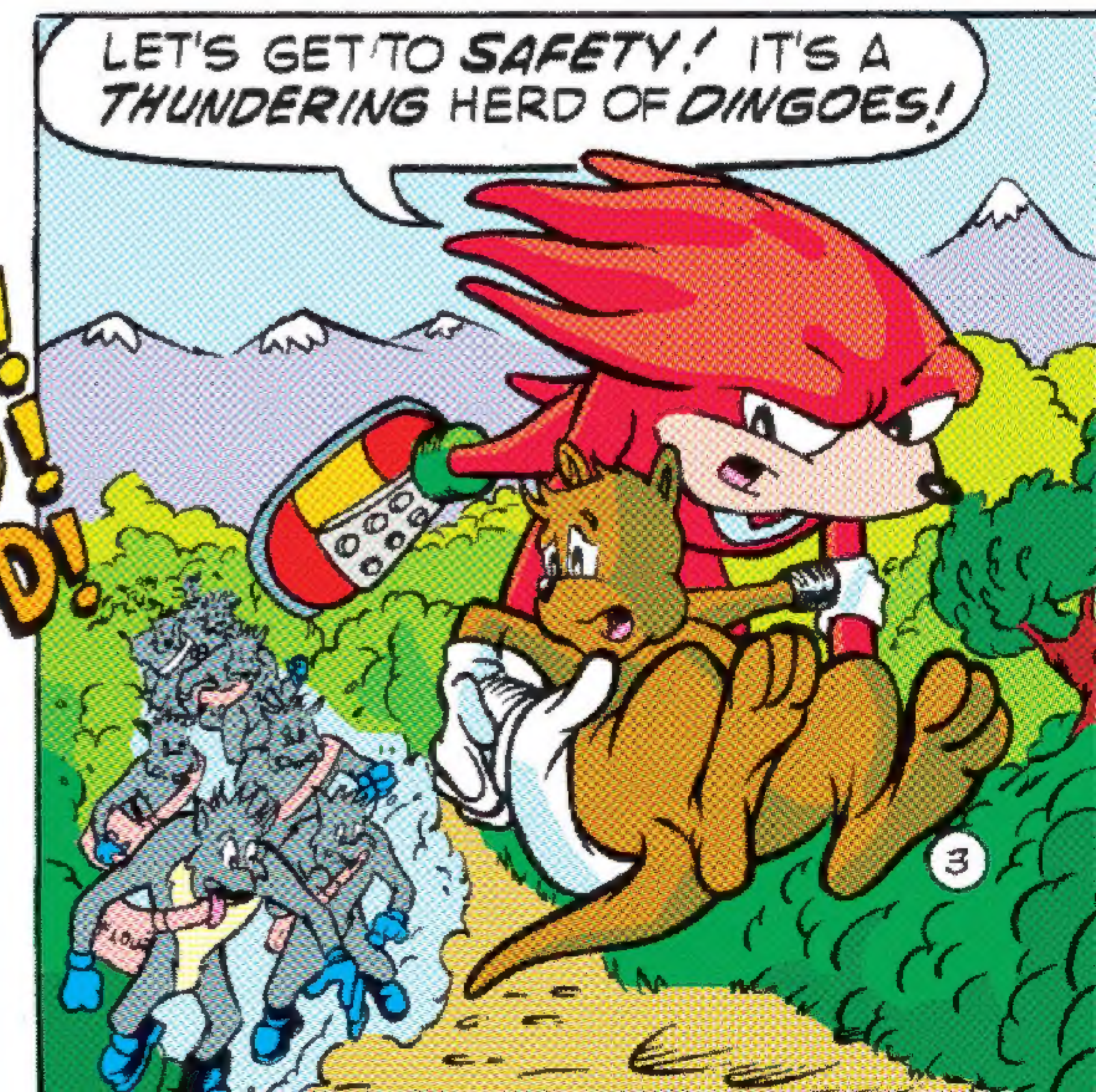


BUT LATELY, THINGS HAVE BEEN **CHANGING**!

REALLY?

YEAH! IN FACT-- **HOLD IT!** THAT **SOUND**!

**THUD!**  
**THUD!**  
**THUD!**



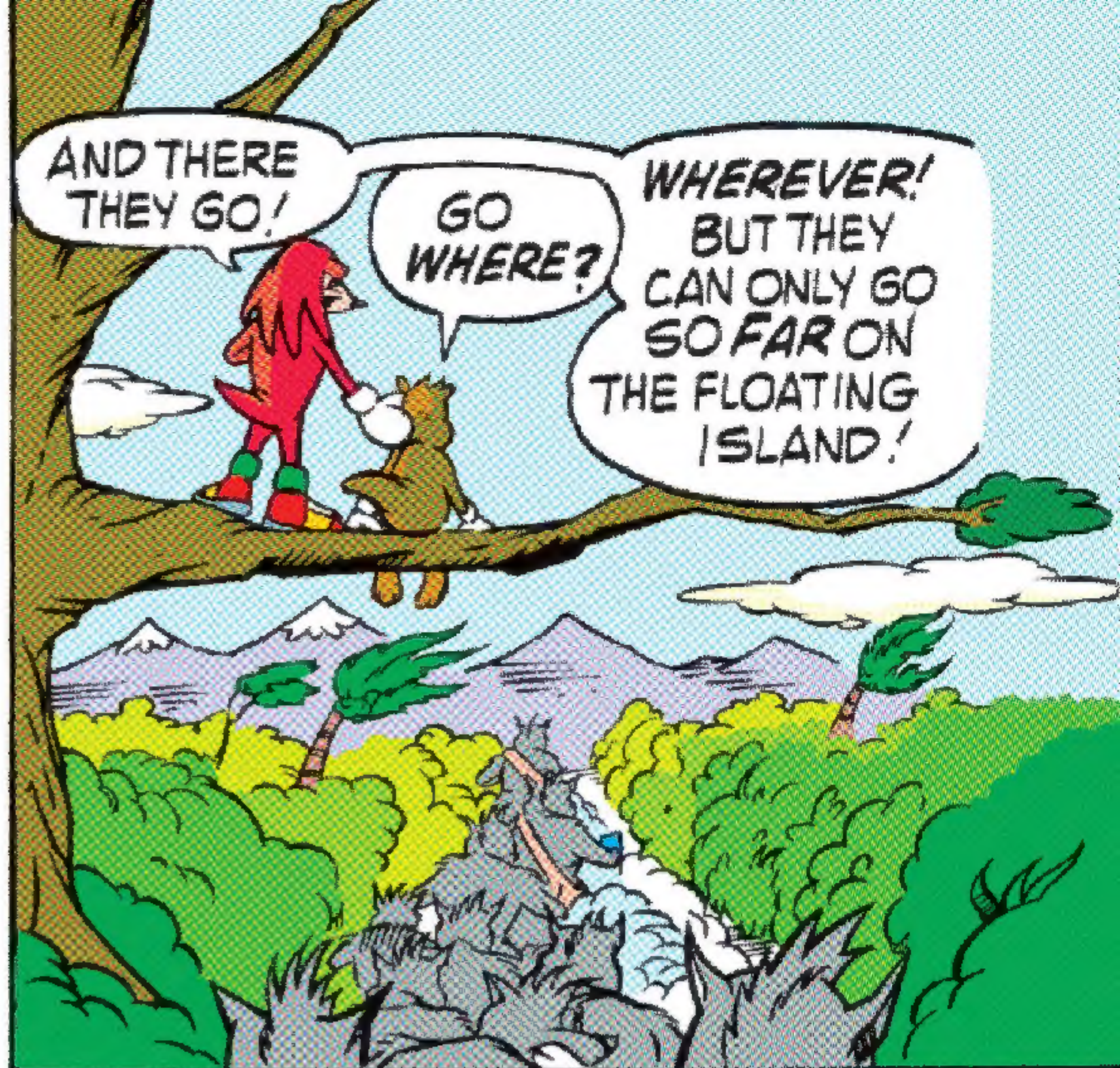
LET'S GET TO **SAFETY**! IT'S A **THUNDERING** HERD OF **DINGOES**!





AREN'T THEY FRIENDLY?

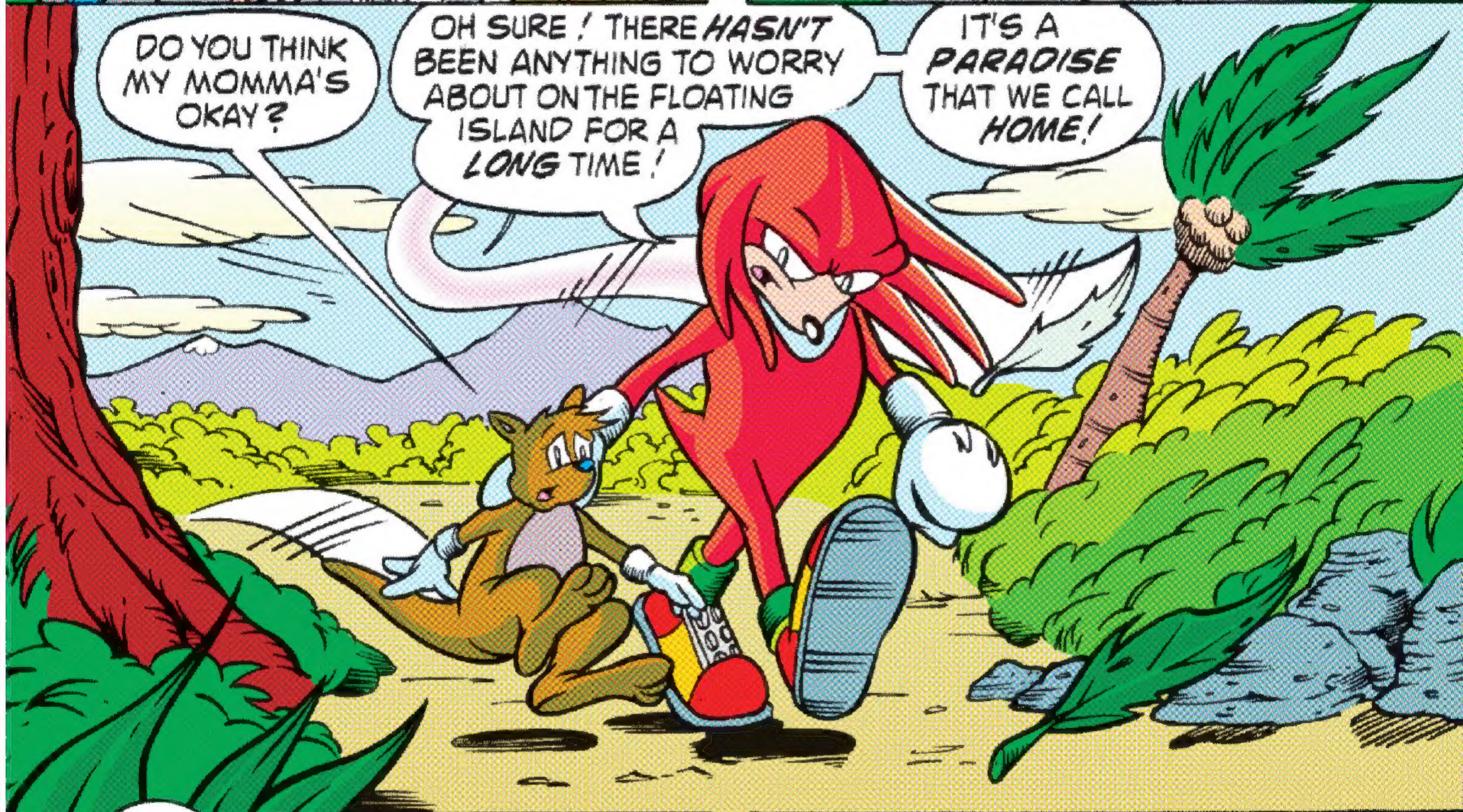
USUALLY, BUT THE WEATHER'S UPSETTING THEM!



AND THERE THEY GO!

GO WHERE?

WHEREVER! BUT THEY CAN ONLY GO SO FAR ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!



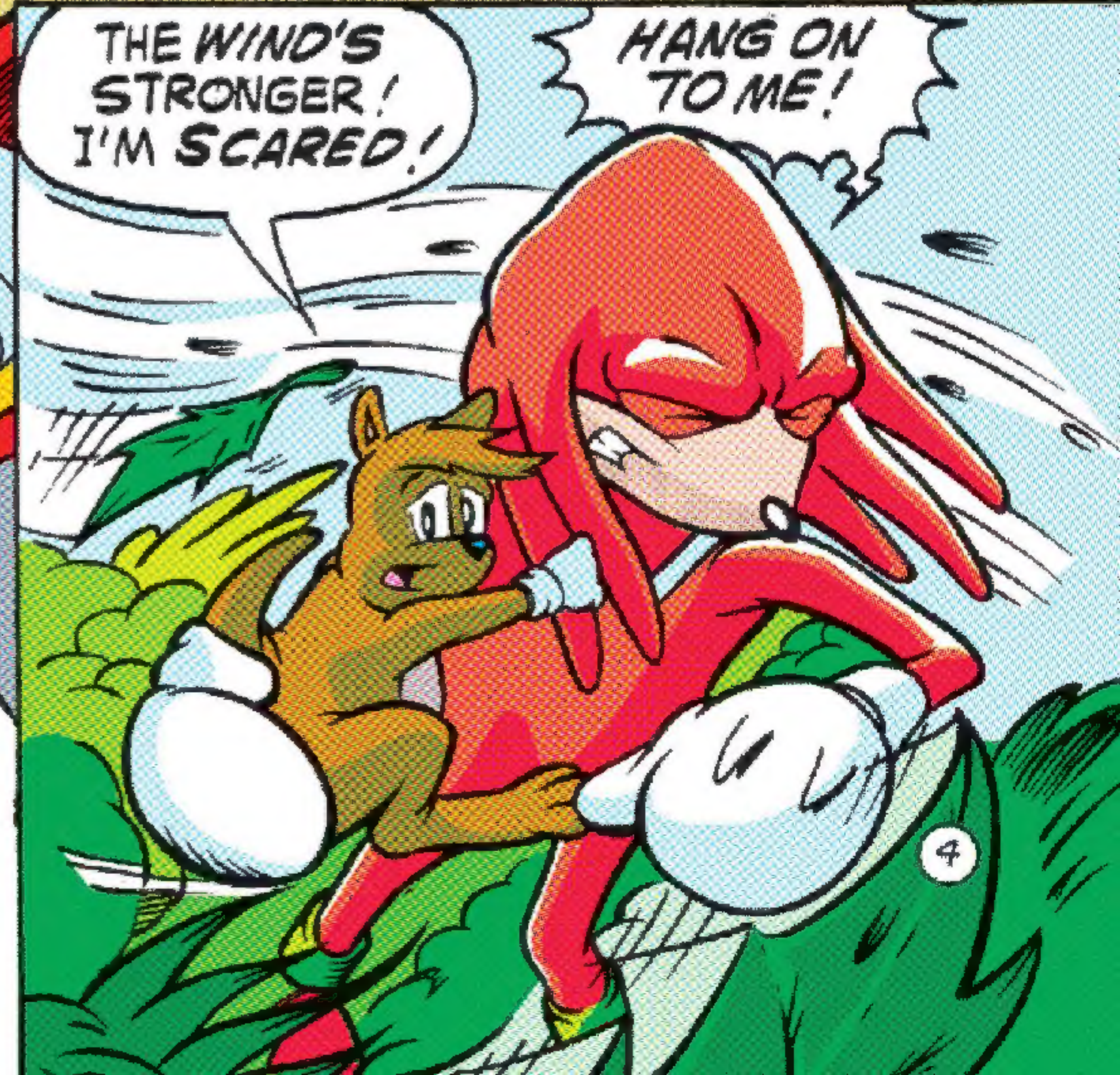
DO YOU THINK MY MOMMA'S OKAY?

OH SURE! THERE *HASN'T* BEEN ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ON THE FLOATING ISLAND FOR A LONG TIME!

IT'S A PARADISE THAT WE CALL HOME!



HOWEVER, WE SEEM TO KEEP GETTING VISITORS WHO'D LIKE TO CHANGE THAT!



THE WIND'S STRONGER! I'M SCARED!

HANG ON TO ME!



